

Fair Trade Comes to Dogpatch

By Andrea de Brito

Spurred by increasing consumer interest in not just what they put in their mouths, but how well agricultural workers are being treated, last year France-based AlterEco opened its

Lecomte decided to shift his financial focus to improving people's lives. Shortly after this epiphany he opened AlterEco.

AlterEco initially sold mostly furniture and handicrafts produced



Photo Courtesy of AlterEco.

first United States office in San Francisco's Dogpatch neighborhood. The company was launched a decade ago when Tristan Lecomte found his auditing job at L'Oreal boring and meaningless. One day in the Paris subway he picked up the

by small cooperatives around the world. "We realized that selling a couple of scarves or chairs a month didn't really impact the communities we were buying from," said Edouard Rollet, co-founder of the U.S. branch. "We wanted to achieve a large scale, to have a bigger impact. And the way to do that was to go to mass retail." Today, AlterEco is the leading fair trade company in France and one of the largest in Europe.

Rollet was working at the French embassy in New York when he and Mathieu Senard decided that the time was ripe to open an AlterEco office in the United States. In 2006, AlterEco started selling products to San Francisco stores. A year later, with five U.S. employees compared to 40 in France, AlterEco's American branch was selling its wares in New York, Texas, and Hawaii. "It's a consumer-driven system where consumers ask their stores about fair trade," said Rollet. "Then we get more requests from the stores." Today AlterEco has the largest line of fair trade food products in the United States, with 150 items. The company works with 42 cooperatives in 35 developing countries.

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Biotech on its way to Potrero under the Latest Area Plans

By Lisa Tehrani

Late last-year the San Francisco Planning Department released the *Eastern Neighborhoods Final Draft Area Plans*, which describe proposed new land use policies for Potrero Hill, Showplace Square, the Mission, Eastern South-of-Market, and the Central Waterfront. Both the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors have to approve the proposals, most likely by this Spring, according to Ken Rich, who's overseeing document development for the Planning Department.

The area plan for Showplace Square/Potrero Hill focuses on preserving design-related showrooms and light industrial space, and creating housing in mixed-use settings. New mixed-use residential buildings would occupy the bulk of the blocks surrounding the Kansas Street Circle and in between 16th and 17th streets under a new "Urban Mixed Use" zoning designation.

Forty percent of new residential buildings would have to consist of two-bedroom units, with a goal of 10 percent consisting of three-bedrooms, a policy that's considered to be more family-friendly than the lofts and one-bedrooms that have been constructed in the neighborhood over the past two decades.

The plan doesn't specify any particular density levels. However, on the majority of the blocks that run along 7th Street building heights would be allowed to reach 65 feet. Building heights on the 16th Street corridor would be limited to 55 feet; with the 17th Street corridor capped at 45 feet – five feet higher than what's currently allowed.

Although an estimate of the number of housing units that could be built under the proposed zoning provisions isn't included in *Area Plans*, the Planning Department

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The S.S. Independence: at Port on the Central Waterfront

By Andrea de Brito

For the last five years one of only three remaining American-made cruise ships, the S.S. Independence, has been laid-up at Pier 70. You can see the huge white ocean liner if you drive eastward from Potrero Hill on Mariposa or 18th streets; the best view is from The Ramp Restaurant, a Bayside drinking spot. For a short time late last year she was floating alongside the Cosco Busan, the freighter that hit the Bay Bridge in November, spilling 58,000 tons of toxic bunker fuel into the Bay, and now heading for China for permanent repairs.

Little is known about the Independence's future, though it's unlikely to be bright. Ira Maybaum, BAE Systems San Francisco Ship Repair's president, says a foreign businessman bought the ship roughly

six months ago from Norwegian Cruise Lines and will probably transport her to Bangladesh to be scrapped. Given that the vessel is one of the few surviving American-made passenger ships left on earth, some San Franciscans hope she'll be preserved and used as a casino, jazz club, or maritime museum.

The S.S. Independence was constructed in 1950 at Bethlehem Steel in Massachusetts by American Export Lines, just a few months before her almost identical sister ship, the S.S. Constitution. Both vessels were unique in that they were built to be able to be converted into wartime ships. Modern in design, they were among the first vessels to be assembled from prefabricated sections.

Throughout the 1950s the Independence sailed back and forth from New York to the Mediterranean; in the late-50s she carried President

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Photo Courtesy of AlterEco.

French equivalent of the *Street Sheet* and read an article about a small organization dedicated to fair trade: providing workers with decent wages and environmentally-sustainable working conditions. A recent Masters of Business Administration graduate,

Publisher's View Something for Nothing

By Steven J. Moss

Over the past several months the *View* has published a number of articles and editorials that criticized local residents for things they did, or didn't do, while volunteering to help the neighborhood. Nobody has been accused of stealing, or anything that would land them in jail, but there's been whiffs of conflicts-of-interest, possible ethical violations, and attempts to control what are essentially community assets. I wrote a couple of these stories and in some cases wasn't as harsh as I might have been. Still, a few readers have written or called-in with the basic message: "Who the hell are you to pick on our local heroes?"

Setting aside exactly how heroic the subjects may or may not be, all of them have undisputedly spent thousands of volunteer hours working on behalf of the community. Mistakes, they've made a few, but their hearts have always been in the right place. Shouldn't the *View* cut them some slack?

The *View's* role is to shed light on the community, so it can be fully seen for its exquisite beauty as well as its normal human ugliness. We've published pieces about the poor quality of our air and the high rates of premature births; we've also printed stories about local community heroes and characters, as well as lovely photographs of neighborhood children and memorable sunsets.

It's challenging to write an accurate and well-told story about potentially inappropriate actions, or weak or fiscally unsound leadership, by volunteers, nonprofits, and local politicians. It's even tougher when chances are high that the writer and the subject will bump into each other at Farley's Café, the Good Life Grocery, or at a community meeting. And possible sources for important stories are frequently unwilling to go on record with their insights or complaints if by so doing they might

anger an elected official, powerful community leader, or neighbor.

Without occasional scrutiny from someone, and absent a willingness to call bad behavior what it is, community representatives, nonprofits, and politicians are left to police themselves, and community stakeholders are kept in the dark about important goings-on. The result can be a tendency towards repeating high school: cliquish groups that are defensive of outsiders; free-range bullies and know-it-alls; and a sense of apathy and disengagement by all the kids who are insufficiently cool, or just don't have the time, to be insiders.

Most of us are trying to do our best in a chaotic, often stressful, world. I've tried to excuse occasional sloppy editing and reporting with the feeble excuse that the *View* is mostly supported by volunteers; if you want us to do better than pick-up a pen. I make mistakes, sometimes duck issues that may get me in too much trouble, or ignore stories that merit attention because I don't have the time. But the *View* tries to publish a balanced newspaper, and we print strong letters from readers who disagree with our articles whenever we receive them.

Anger is an undervalued emotion in our society. We all get angry, sometimes righteously, and the resulting energy can propel needed change. Conflict is also under-appreciated. Our democracy is predicated on comprehensive, peaceful, clashes between ideas and values that result in the creation of the greatest good. In Southeast San Francisco there's a lot to be angry about. Let's have at it, knowing that we'll wake up each morning living or working in the same place, with the same neighbors who will hopefully smile warmly at one another as they dine at Goat Hill Pizza.

Letters to the Editor

Chiotras Grocery

Dear Editor

I am writing to you out of concern about the article published in the January *View*, "The New Chiotras Grocery: Same As It Ever Was." My childhood memories of the Chiotras and Karetoff families are some of the fondest in my life. The respect I have for Pete Chiotras and my great-grandfather, Alec Karetoff, go beyond words. These immigrants have been a total inspiration to me.

In the article I was quoted as saying, "I couldn't shake the memory of 'How filthy Chiotras Grocery used to be' and that 'By today's health codes the store would be shut down.'" I spent a lot of time at Pete's store stocking shelves, breaking-down boxes, or just leaning against the ice cream box having a soda. In the old days the store was half the size it is now and probably had as much merchandise or more. Chiotras began before the days of the supermarket, when families did all their shopping in the neighborhood, including purchasing meat. I can still hear the sound of Pete cutting steaks behind the counter on the old butcher block that had a two inch dip in it from all the meat cut on it over the years. I couldn't tell you how many meat loaves, steaks or gallons of spaghetti sauce came across our dinner from Pete's when I was a child. Many people that bought meat from Chiotras who still live on the Hill have joked about how conditions were so different then. But his meat was always the best; so much so that his brother-in-law was inspired to open his own butcher shop on 20th and Connecticut streets.

My great-grandfather, an immigrant from Tbilisi, Georgia, came to this country and made a wonderful life for his wife and four daughters. He worked very hard, and retired at a young age to take care of the properties he purchased on the Hill. The stories of the people he helped are endless. I was told many stories about him as a child, some true, some let's just say washed through two or three generations from a different time and based on conversations over Thanksgiving or a maybe a few too much Christmas cheer. These stories should never have been quoted in the *View*; that was my mistake.

My memories of Chiotras Grocery are not of how filthy Pete's store was, but of a hardworking man and

his family that were always there for me, when I needed a sandwich, a few dollars or just some support during hard times. And the last word I would use to describe my Detha - Alec Karetoff - is "notorious." I'd describe him as gentle or honest. I remember him chopping wood in the backyard for his wood burning stove early on a Saturday morning; and as I threw my clothes on before anyone else was up to run next door and have a cup of chai with him on the back porch as the sun came up over the Oakland hills. Listening more intently than I ever did in school to the endless adventures of a man who traveled halfway around the world to start a new life, in a country from which I am reaping the benefits of now.

I was excited to talk to Ms. de Brito about my family, and the stories I was told on the Hill. But it is so important to me and my family that the memories of these hard-working men from generations past are never tarnished. In loving memory of Alec Karetoff, and Pete Chiotras, two amazing men in my life, and out of love and respect for Smaro Chiotras and her family, my baby sister Beth and her wonderful man Ramzi who have an incredible store, and so many new memories for all of us to come.

Joe Bullard (Karetoff)
Four generations on the Hill and proud of it, Bullard's Heating & Air
Henry Adams Street

Flawed Process

Dear Editor:

In response to Tony Kelly's January letter to the editor I reread the November *Potrero View* article on which my letter, to which Kelly was in part responding, was based. I still feel that the process under which the terms for approval of the conditional use variance for 650 Townsend was negotiated was seriously flawed. My main objection is that a person who is paid to push developers' agendas should not then represent the neighborhood in front of the SF Planning Commission, or any other audience, as a member of the executive committee of our Potrero Hill Boosters Association. Such a conflict of interest does not lend itself to growing our neighborhood in the best ways possible.

Nancy Anding
Missouri Street

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The *View* doesn't have an editorial position on all of this election's races, but we did study a few, and have the following recommendations:

Proposition A, Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bonds: Yes. Our raggedy parks and playgrounds sure could use the help. Concerns about the use of Field Turf (see last month's *View*) need not sink the bond; expenditures on playfield repair and reconstruction will be subject to a review process, which should provide for plenty of opportunities to oppose fenced-in, overly illuminated patches of plastic.

Proposition B, Creating a New Deferred Retirement Option Program for Members of the San Francisco Police Department: Yes. As described in an article that appeared in last year's *View*, the San Francisco Police Department needs lots of new officers, and is having a hard time recruiting them. This initiative provides a low-cost way of retaining the old-timers a bit longer.

Proposition C, Adopting a Policy that the City Acquire Alcatraz Island to Make a Global Peace Center: No. Under-performing schools; high rates of premature births in Southeast San Francisco; a planning department that doesn't seem to have the capacity to implement a rational set of development fees; we have enough to do without taking over an island that the federal government is running just fine.

Proposition 91, Transportation Funds, Constitutional Amendment: No. Even this initiative's original proponents recommend a "no" vote on yet another proposal to tie the Legislature's hands when it comes to deciding how best to spend taxpayer dollars.

Proposition 92, Community Colleges, Funding, Governance, Fees, Constitutional Amendment:

No. You may like community colleges, but you may also like state parks, environmental protection, and assistance to the poor. How public resources should best be spent should be a dynamic process, with ample opportunity for debate and dialogue that can result in changing resource allocations over time.

Proposition 93, Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office, Constitutional Amendment: Yes. By all accounts terms limits have been a disaster, creating uber short-term perspectives on the part of legislators, and shifting institutional knowledge and political power to long-term staffers, bureaucrats, and lobbyists. This proposition doesn't eliminate term limits, but it does provide more flexibility to retain valuable politicians.

Propositions 94, 95, 96, and 97,

Referendum on Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact: Ugh. Under these initiatives the state would gamble a portion of its revenue future on four native tribes' enormous expansion of gaming facilities. No doubt these tribes muscled their way to the political table with their already deep pockets, and, as suggested by notable opponents Dolores Huerta and Lenny Goldberg, the state probably didn't get the best deal possible for casino workers and the environment. If you're against gambling, vote no on the bunch of these. If you think the state can get a better deal if voters stall the expansion – rest assured, if these initiatives are defeated they'll quickly be resurrected in some form by the governor – you should likewise vote no. However, if you're worried that without more tribal gaming and the associated tax revenues important public services will be cut, or your taxes will increase, then you're all in.

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Short Cuts

New Year, New President

Nancy Pelosi rang in the New Year a few weeks late – she was too busy in late-December negotiating more federal dollars to clean-up the ever-needy ex-Hunters Point Shipyard – at her annual reception last month. A phalanx of Hill residents were on hand to cheer the Speaker of the House on, many of them invited courtesy of pizza-slinger **Philip De Andrade**, including former *View* publisher **Ruth Passen**, publicist **Karen Larsen**, and grocer **Lester Zeidman**. Pelosi told the assembled crowd that in 2008 she was going to take health care reform efforts to the neighborhoods, and neatly side-stepped pressure to endorse a Democratic Party presidential candidate with “Aren’t we proud of all of our [Democratic] candidates for U.S. president? Wouldn’t they all make a good president?” San Francisco Mayor **Gavin Newsom** received the biggest laugh of the afternoon during his introductory comments, when he remarked how pleased he was that as a result of Pelosi’s leadership he was able to “look a seventh grader in the eye and say, yes, there are three branches of government” as reported in standard textbooks.

Goodbyes

Realtor **Rebecca Ford**, who was “on the Hill to serve the community better long before it was pricey or hip” is moving to Mexico. Ford, who’s worked as an agent and broker for almost three decades, founded Ford Real Estate, which **Zephyr Real Estate** acquired four years ago. During her time on the Hill Ford lived on five different states (streets), and served as the president of the **Potrero Hill Boosters Neighborhood Association**. She’ll still be available to assist clients via Internet and telephone from her tropical garden...**Suzanne and Ralph Shields**, the former of whom has been the subject of a few *View* articles, are selling their Hill home. Suzanne worked tirelessly caring for **Starr King Open Space**, and the couple is famous for providing holiday desserts to seniors dining at the **Potrero Hill Neighborhood House’s** lunch program and pitching-in at **Martin de Porres House of Hospitality**...And the **Petite Patisserie** has served its last organically-made scone. After just a year or so in operation, the small bakery is for sale. Anyone want to open a New York-style fresh bagel outlet?

Hello

Kelly’s Mission Rock, site of many a raucous late-night party by the bridge and tunnel crowd, was sold last month to new owners. Renamed **Mission Rock Café**, the eatery is open daily for brunch and lunch, as well as private catering, with the food whipped up by a former Gary Danko chef...The Maktoub Group’s **Couleur Café**, on De Haro Street, is being split in half, with the café to remain on one side and a thin crust pizzeria to

open next door. Not sure what all the new pizza joints mean for long-time standby **Goat Hill Pizza**, but there’s nowhere else in town that features a more enjoyable way to dine on a Monday night...And Lieutenant **John Loftus**, recently of the San Francisco Police Department’s robbery detail, has been named the Bayview Station’s new captain, replacing **Albert Pardini**. He’ll be joined by four new lieutenants: **Jack Ballentine** and **Michael Connolly** on day watch; and **Dominic Celaya** and **Hector Sainez** on night watch. The new crew comes in just in time to address heightened concerns in the ‘hood about car break-ins and muggings.

Habla Espanol?

Last month the **Potrero Residents’ Education Fund (PREFund)** announced the Spring 2008 opening of a bilingual preschool on the **Daniel Webster Elementary School** campus. Now even bigger news: a Spanish language immersion program will open at the elementary school in Fall 2009, starting with kindergarten. In just three years PREFund stopped Webster from closing, and launched both a preschool and a highly desirable elementary school magnet program. What’s next: solving the state’s budget crises?

At Least You Have Your Health

Last month the **American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine** launched a new Faculty Practice Clinic. The Clinic, which is open six days a week, features licensed acupuncturists and herbalists offering a range of cures, including related to pain management, pediatrics, orthopedics, and women’s health. Rates start at \$88 per treatment...**SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic**, founded in 1989 and located on the Hill for the last decade, has changed its name to **San Francisco Natural Medicine**. The new name better reflects the clinic’s focus on naturopathic medicine, which stresses ministering to the whole person, rather than just the disease; prevention; treating underlying causes of an ailment and not just the symptoms; and using natural therapies, such as nutrition, herbs, acupuncture and physical medicine.

Trans Bay on it’s Way

The Trans Bay Cable (TBC) project, which will transmit up to 400 megawatts of electricity from the City of Pittsburg to San Francisco, started construction on its San Francisco converter station, located between 23rd and Illinois streets. No word yet on how the **San Francisco Public Utility Commission** plans to spend the upwards of \$50 million in payments it will receive from TBC, in part, as a result of opposition to the project by local nonprofit **San Francisco Community Power**.

Gays Against Families?

The AIDS Legal Referral Panel

(ALRP), which purports to protect the interests of the underserved, is busy harassing a family over a tenant dispute about noise. The panel’s client threatened to call the police because he was disturbed by the early-evening sounds emanating from a handful of children celebrating the Jewish Sabbath. Rushing to the rescue, ALRP upped the ante by sending a formal letter to the family alluding to possible legal action if they didn’t pipe down. In a town that has far fewer five-year olds than dogs, it appears that who gets “protected” by earnest nonprofits depends more on their sexual orientation than their vulnerability. Prompted by ALRP, the lawyers will now take over.

Things You Don’t Want to Hear While Chewing Your Tuna Sandwich

Heard in a Richmond District restaurant:

First waitress, shouting to someone in the back after answering the telephone: “Sam from the pest control company is on the line!”

Second waitress: “Um, maybe you shouldn’t have shouted that out so loud.”

First waitress: “Oh, yeah, you’re right. But come on, it’s the reality, isn’t it?”

Why?

Why isn’t every children’s playground in the City fenced in, with only one way in and one way out, so parents can safely keep track of their kids?...Why do MUNI drivers have to twist around to hand passengers a transfer ticket, risking long-term damage to their neck and shoulder?...Why are some curbs on the edges of driveways painted red, and others aren’t?...Why are parking tickets so punitively expensive?...Why do most public school’s winter holiday festivals feature snowmen and sleigh rides, with nary a word about the winter environment we actually experience in the Bay Area?...Why are there so few trash cans in many City parks?...Why isn’t the City’s huge pile of dog waste recycled into energy, as can be done with existing technology?...Why is the most frequent mention of District 10 Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell** in the *View*, arguably the paper of record for Southeast San Francisco, that she’s “unavailable for comment?”...Why are some of

the most valuable services we rely on provided by nonprofits, and most organizations with the word public in front of their name thought to be sub-standard, while people who invent faster ways to get to just the right pornography site become billionaires who’re typically celebrated for giving to the aforementioned nonprofits?

Adopt a Box

The *East Bay Express* went undercover last month, in search of newspapers that were disappearing from their racks a hit too fast to be taken by one-off readers. *Express* staff sought out black market purchasers of newsprint, and found an unlisted, unmarked Oakland recycler. Once at the facility *Express* staff, impersonating illegal recyclers, drove a small load of papers onto a set of scales and into a warehouse in which a large conveyer system carried papers into a machine that bundled them into four foot cubes. Multiple copies of just-off-the press –stolen before they’d been read – issues of the *San Jose Metro*, *SF Weekly*, and *Classified Flea Market* had already been processed. *Express* staff was paid \$30 cash by the recycler for their load. The *View* has also noticed odd runs on some of its boxes; last month from the North Slope and Showplace Square area. We could use your help making sure our readers have access to the paper when they want it. Contact us if you’d be willing to adopt a box or know of shops that might be willing to carry your neighborhood newspaper.

Fire

One of the few remaining Pelton cottages in Dogpatch was heavily damaged by fire last month, following the loss of a similar cottage to fire just two years ago. The structure’s design was based on free architectural plans published by local architect John Cotter Pelton, Jr. in the early 1880s. The cluster of originally 16 identical Eastlake style workers’ cottages, constructed in 1890 and 1891, were/are located on Tennessee and Minnesota streets, between 20th and 22nd streets. The small wood-frame houses were typically rented to laborers working at industries in nearby Potrero Point. They’re now disappearing just like their former occupants’ blue collar jobs



Before and after shots of the fire damaged Pelton Cottage. Photos by Katherine Doumani

Land Ho!

By Kerry Fleisher

After upwards of a decade-long start-stop sputtering planning process, the San Francisco Planning Department's recently released *Eastern Neighborhoods Final Draft Area Plans* may finally usher in a new land use era in Southeast San Francisco, re-defining zoning boundaries for small- and large-scale developments in Potrero Hill, Showplace Square, the Mission, Eastern South-of-Market, and the Central Waterfront. If approved by the San Francisco Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, the *Area Plans* will include a public benefits framework, which will describe the contribution levels required for affordable housing, open space, and transportation.

To date, land use decisions in the eastern neighborhoods have been ad hoc, with no systematic way of vetting proposed zoning variances or building designs, and no mechanism to collect the fees necessary to pay for the public infrastructure prompted by new development. Many developers have put their projects on hold until the *Area Plans* are finalized. However, in an effort to obtain a conditional use permit – the golden ring for those who want to construct almost anything in Southeast San Francisco – other developers have verbally committed to contribute monies for

open space; conducted environmental assessments; and made a host of other concessions. In some cases, as has been covered by the *View*, these concessions have consisted of essentially secret agreements between citizens representing neighborhood groups and individual developers. The Planning Department itself isn't aware of the full range of verbal commitments that have been made by developers, and community members are often ill-informed – or mostly unaware – of these promises.

To keep our readers as informed as possible on potential changes to their neighborhood landscape the *View* will be intensifying its coverage of land use issues, in the hopes of prompting a more inclusive and cohesive dialogue within the community. We'd like our readers to be familiar with the City planners, developers, and community leaders whose actions will permanently alter San Francisco's skyline.

The following is a list of pipeline projects – developments that have submitted applications to the Planning Department or Department of Building Inspection – in Potrero Hill, Showplace Square, Eastern SoMa, Mission Bay, and the Central Waterfront. These projects are at various stages of implementation.

We encourage readers to suggest people, developments, and issues that should be included in our land use coverage. We'd also welcome financial contributions to support this effort: office@potreroview.net; editor@potreroview.net.



Newly constructed Park Terrace, 325 Berry Street. Photo by Erin Reagan.



601 King Street, located in the heavy industry zone on the Showplace Square/Potrero Hill periphery, is slated to have 224 apartment units. The six story building will include retail, parking, and open space. Photo by Erin Reagan.



766 Harrison, located in Eastern SoMa's light industrial zone, is currently under construction. The developers plan to build 98 apartment units in an eight story high building. Photo by Erin Reagan.



1250 Missouri, under construction. Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski.

TILE SETTING

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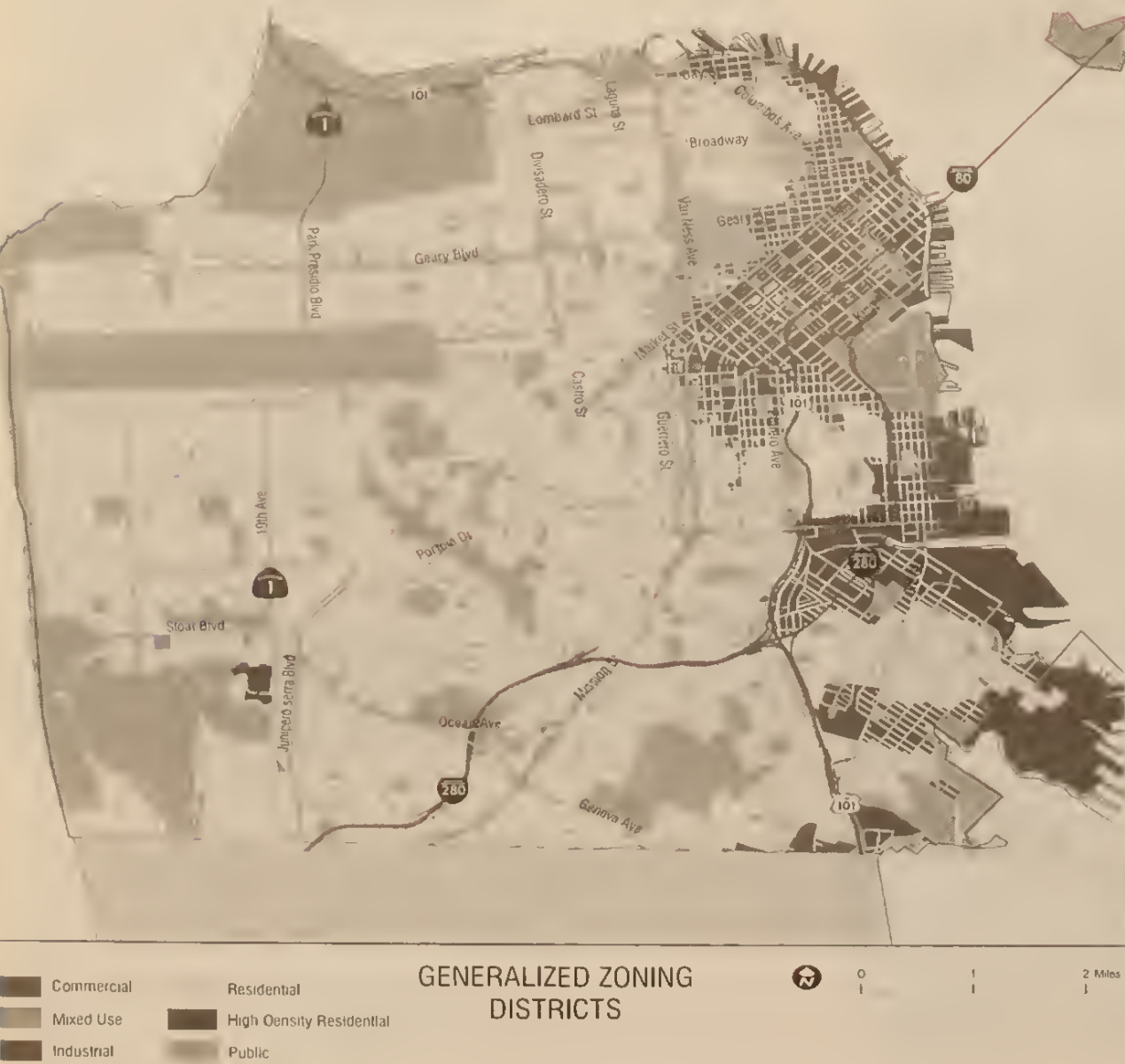
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2130 24TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	1	CONST	2 FAM RES: ERECT A THREE STORY, 2 UNIT
1028 WISCONSIN ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	1	CDNST	2 FAM RES: NEW 3 STORY AND PENTHOUSE
1057 MISSISSIPPI ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 1	3	CONST	APT. 4 STORY, 3 DWELLING RESIDENTIAL/COM
1518 25TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 3	3	CONST	APT. 4 STORY 3 UNIT RESIDENTIAL BLDG
1077 MISSISSIPPI ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 1	3	CONST	APT. ERECT 4 STORIES, 3 DWELLING RES/CDM
720 ARKANSAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	CDNST	2 FAM RES: ERECT A 4-STORY 2 FAMILY
766 HARRISON ST	Eastern SoMa	M 1	98	CONST	ERECT AN 8 STORY, 98 DWELLING UNIT BLDG.
436 CLEMENTINA ST	Eastern SoMa	RSO	20	CDNST	ERECT A NEW 6 STORY 20 UNIT MIXED USE
831 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa	RSD	69	CDNST	ERECT 9 STORIES 69 UNITS RESIDENTIAL/CDM
54 SOUTH PARK ST	Eastern SoMa	SPD	2	CONST	TO ERECT 4 STORY, 2 FAMILY DWELLING W/RTL
604 RHODE ISLAND ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2		CDNST	ERECT A 3 STORY SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
659 RHODE ISLAND ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	CDNST	ERECT A 3 STORY 2 DWELLING UNITS
462 RYAN ST	Eastern SoMa	SSD		8P FD	TO DEMOLISH 2 STORY FACTORY TO OFFICE
1011 TENNESSEE ST	Cnt'l Waterfront	M 2	3	8P FD	ACCOMMODATE 2 ADDITIONAL APT UNITS
DWIGHT ST & 16TH	Mission Bay	M8 RA		PL FD	7 STORY OFFICE FOR ELECTRONIC DATA PRDCT
1200 19TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	1	CDNST	DEMOLISH 1 STORY, SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING.
2198 3RD ST/638 19TH	Cnt'l Waterfront	M 2	24	CDNST	TO ERECT 24 RES UNITS (4 STORY) W/ COMM
1724 20TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	1	CONST	ERECT A FIVE STORY TWO UNIT RESIDENTIAL
1817 19TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	1	CDNST	TO ERECT 3 STORIES, SINGLE FAMILY
879 RHODE ISLAND ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 3	1	CONST	ERECT 4 STORY, TWO UNIT RESIDENTIAL
593 ARKANSAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	1	CONST	CONNECT 2 UNITS (MERGE
612 MISSOURI ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	CONST	ERECT A THREE STORY TWO UNIT RES
618 MISSOURI ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	CONST	ERECT A THREE STORY TWO UNIT RES
577 MISSISSIPPI ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	CDNST	ERECT A FOUR STORY TWO UNIT RES
918 MINNESOTA ST	Cnt'l Waterfront	RH 3	2	CDNST	2 FAM RES REHABILITATION & REAR ADDITION
811 RHODE ISLAND ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 3	1	CDNST	2 FAM RES: ADD 2 NEW FLOORS ABOVE 1/F
2005 18TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	CONST	ERECT A TWO STORY TWO UNIT DWELLING
170 KING ST	Eastern SoMa	M 2	198	CDNST	ERECT AN 11 STORY, 198 UNIT MIXED USE
601 KING ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 2	224	CONST	6 STORY, 224 RES/RTL/PARKING/OPEN SPACE
184 HOOPER ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 2		CDNST	ERECT 1 STORY PDST SECONDARY EDUCATION
201 16TH ST	Mission Bay	M8 RA		CDNST	6 STORY MEDICAL AND BIOTECH RESEARCH
450 RHODE IS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	NC 3	165	CDNST	ERECT A 4 STORY 165 UNIT RESIDENTIAL
1 SOUTH PARK	Eastern SoMa	SSO	35	CDNST	RENOVATION OF (E) 3 STORY WAREHOUSE
255 KING ST	Mission Bay	MB RA		CONST	CONSTRUCT OFFICE & RTL SUPPORTING USE
311 TOWNSEND ST	Mission Bay	MB RA		CONST	ERECT A 1 STORY BICYCLE STORAGE
807 KANSAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	BP ISD	2 FAM RES: RENEW AP
567 TEXAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	RH 2	2	BP ISD	TO ERECT 3 STORIES OF 2 FAMILY DWELLINGS
2235 03RD ST	Cnt'l Waterfront	M 2	102	8P ISD	WAREHOUSE: REVISION TO APPROVED BLDG
75 MOSS ST	Eastern SoMa	RED	14	8P ISD	ERECT ONE 4 STORY, TYPE 5, 14 UNITS RES
435 CHINA BASIN ST	Mission Bay	MB RA	319	8P ISD	16 STORIES, RES / RETAIL / OFFICE / PARKING
1066 HOWARD ST	Eastern SoMa	SLR	1	BP ISD	1 FAM: INTERIOR RENOVATION
675 TOWNSEND ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 2	148	8P ISD	UNKNOWN
181 SOUTH PARK ST	Eastern SoMa	SPD	8	BP ISO	UNKNOWN
70 SOUTH PARK ST	Eastern SoMa	SPD	1	8P ISD	TO ERECT 3 STORIES. 1 RES
1301 CESAR CHAVEZ ST	Cnt'l Waterfront	M 2		8P AP	ERECT A NEW 1 STORY OFFICE BUILDING
55 SHERMAN ST	Eastern SoMa	P		8P AP	DEMOLITION OF A ONE STORY SCHOOL
140 PENNSYLVANIA AV	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 2	12	8P FD	ERECT A 5 STORIES 12 UNIT RES
1 HENRY ADAMS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq.	M 2	212	BP FD	TO ERECT 7 STORIES RESIDENTIAL



Southeast Pipeline Developments
2007 Key

Zoning
RH-1,2,3: Residential Housing (one to three dwelling units per lot)
RM-1,2,3,4: Mixed Apartment and Houses (low to high density)
RC-3,4: Residential-Commercial (medium to high density)
RSD: Residential Services
RED: Residential Enclave
NC-1,2,3: Neighborhood/Community
SPD: South Park District
SLR: Service/Light Industrial/Residential
SLI: Service/Light Industrial
SSO: Service/Secondary Office
C-2: Community Business
C-3: Downtown Commercial
C-M: Heavy Commercial
M-1: Light Industrial
M-2: Heavy Industrial

Units
Net total dwelling units

Stage
CONST: Project is under construction
BP AP: Department of Building Inspection (DBI) approved building permit
BP ISD: Project sponsor has picked up approved building permit
BP FD: Application for building permit filed with DBI
PL AP: All planning actions approved
PL FD: Project application filed with the Planning Department

Generalized Zoning Districts
Map

These current zoning divisions are subject to change if the Eastern Neighborhoods Final Draft Area Plans are ultimately approved. The proposed zoning in Potrero Hill and Showplace Square, the Mission, Central Waterfront, and East SoMa breaks-down the current industrial zones into an array of mixed-use and production, distribution, and repair (PDR) zones. The new zoning is intended to better monitor development and encourage affordable housing in Potrero Hill, Showplace Square, the Mission, Eastern South-of-Market, and the Central Waterfront segments the existing industrial zones into an array of mixed-used residential and production, distribution, and repair. The new zoning designations are intended to better accomodate development and encourage the creation of affordable housing..

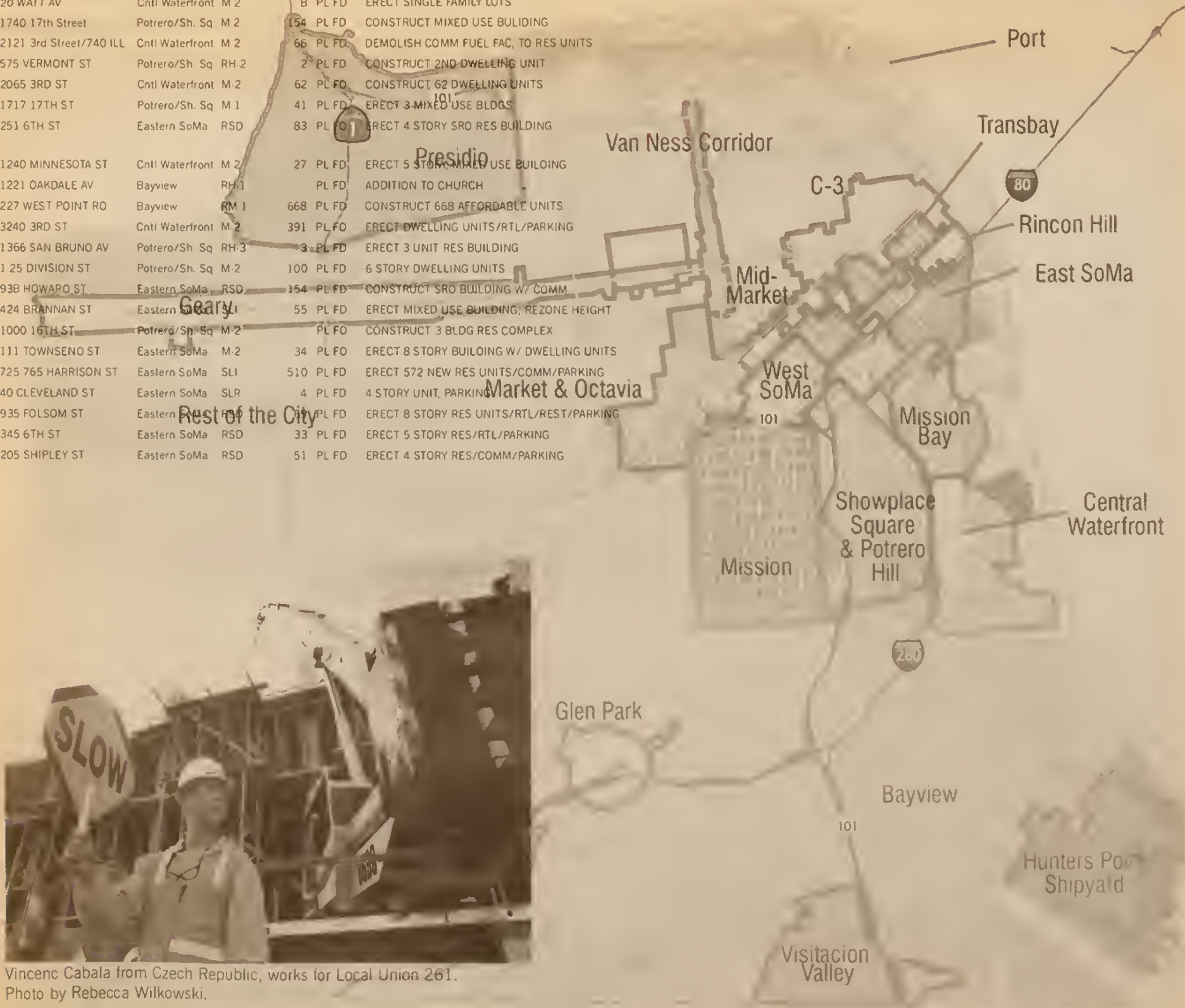


680 Illinois, under construction. Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski.

542 KANSAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq. RH-3	2 BP FD	FAM RES VER/ HORIZONTAL ADDITION
166 TOWNSEND ST	Eastern SoMa SLI	66 BP FD	MULTI-MED OFFICE. 3 STORY VERT ADDITION
655 04TH ST	Eastern SoMa SLI	192 BP FD	DEMOLISHING OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL BLDG
585 TEXAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	2 BP FD	2 FAM RES NEW 2 CAR GARAGE & STUDIO
749 WISCONSIN ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	2 BP FD	ERECT 4 STORIES OF 2 DWELLING UNITS
772 WISCONSIN ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	(1) BP FD	DEMOLISH 1 STORY SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
746 CAROLINA ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	2 BP FD	TO ERECT A NEW 3 STORY 2 DWELLING UNIT
585 KANSAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-3	2 BP FD	2 FAM OWELLING
791 SAN BRUNO AV	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	1 BP FD	ERECT 2 STORY SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
229B 03RD ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	80 BP FD	TO ERECT 40 DWELLING UNITS IN A 6 STORY
246 RITCH ST	Eastern SoMa SLI	19 BP FD	APT TO ERECT A NEW 5 STORY 19 RES UNIT
250 BRANNAN ST	Eastern SoMa SSO	51 BP FD	RENOVATE 3 STORY BRICK TO RES
801 BRANNAN ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-2	557 BP FD	TO ERECT 6 STORIES. 557 DWELLING RES/RTL
1091 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa SLR	30 BP FD	ERECT 5 STORIES OF 30 DWELLINGS
1095 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa SLR	BP FD	TO DEMOLISH A 2 STORY OFFICE BUILDING
12 SHERMAN ST	Eastern SoMa SLR	3 BP FD	ERECT 4 STORIES 3 DWELLING UNITS BLDG
1075 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa SLR	31 BP FD	TO ERECT 5 STORRY RES/ COMM UNITS
1089 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa SLR	BP FD	TD DEMOLISH 2 STORIES, PRINTING PRESS
136 SOUTH PARK AV	Eastern SoMa SPD	1 BP FD	ERECT 1 STDRY OF 1 DWELLING UNITS
1033 DE HARO ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	2 BP FD	2 FAM RES NO STRUCTURAL CHANGES
1300 INDIANA ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	81 BP FD	ERECT FIVE STDRY RES. RETAIL, WAREHOUSE
75B ARKANSAS ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	2 BP FD	FAM RES NEW FOUNOATIONS ADD 3RD, 4TH FL
537 NATOMA ST	Eastern SoMa RED	14 BP FD	TO ERECT 14 DWELLING UNIT WITH 4 STORY
457 TEHAMA ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	1 BP FD	FAM RES NEW 2 STORIES ABOVE
468 CLEMENTINA ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	25 BP FD	TO ERECT 4 STORY 12 UNIT DWELLING
456 CLEMENTINA ST	Eastern SoMa RSO	12 BP FD	TO ERECT A NEW 4 STORY RES/COMM BLD
229 7TH ST	Eastern SoMa RED/SLR	49 BP FD	TO ERECT RES, PRIVATE PARKING, MED OFFICE
190 RUSS ST	Eastern SoMa RED	B BP FD	TO ERECT 5 STORIES, RESIDENTIAL BLD
226 06TH ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	59 BP FD	APR. VERT ADDITION/RENOVATION
1000 16THST/1400 7TH	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-2	450 PL AP	3 RES COMPLEXES
445 449 BRYANT ST	Eastern SoMa SSO	B PL AP	DEMOLITION 2 BLDs, ERECT RES BUILDING
510 7TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq SLI	PL AP	CONSTRUCT NEW OFFICE BUILDING
836 BRANNAN ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-2	PL AP	CONVERT INDUST. SPACE TO OFFICE SPACE
2 CLYDE ST	Eastern SoMa SLI	PL AP	NEW CONSTRUCTION OF 4 STORY BUSSINESS
750 02ND ST	Eastern SoMa M-2	PL AP	CONVERT TO RETAIL/OFFICE
144 KING ST	Eastern SoMa M-2	PL AP	CONSTRUCT 131 ROOM HOTEL
631 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa C-3-S	120 PL AP	CONSTRUCT 21 STORY RES BUILDING
680 ILLINOIS ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	35 PL AP	ERECT 35 UNIT RES W/ COMM/PARKING
929 939 VERMONT ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	5 PL AP	6 UNIT NEW CONDO
654 MINNESOTA ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	PL FD	CHANGE IN PARKING REQUIREMENTS
1004 MISSISSIPPI ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-3	28 PL FD	CONSTRUCT 28 DWELLING UNITS/PARKING
1025 TENNESSEE ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	12 PL FD	ERECT 12 DWELLING UNITS
20 WATT AV	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	B PL FD	ERECT SINGLE FAMILY LOTS
1740 17th Street	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-2	154 PL FD	CONSTRUCT MIXED USE BULIDING
2121 3rd Street/740 ILL	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	66 PL FD	DEMOLISH COMM FUEL FAC, TO RES UNITS
575 VERMONT ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-2	2 PL FD	CONSTRUCT 2ND DWELLING UNIT
2065 3RD ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	62 PL FD	CONSTRUCT 62 DWELLING UNITS
1717 17TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-1	41 PL FD	ERECT 3 MIXED USE BLDGS
251 6TH ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	83 PL FD	ERECT 4 STORY SRO RES BUILDING
1240 MINNESOTA ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	27 PL FD	ERECT 5 STORY MIXED USE BUILDING
1221 OAKDALE AV	Bayview RH-1	PL FD	ADDITION TO CHURCH
227 WEST POINT RO	Bayview RM-1	668 PL FD	CONSTRUCT 668 AFFORDABLE UNITS
3240 3RD ST	Cntrl Waterfront M-2	391 PL FD	ERECT DWELLING UNITS/RTL/PARKING
1366 SAN BRUNO AV	Potrero/Sh. Sq RH-3	3 PL FD	ERECT 3 UNIT RES BUILDING
1 25 DIVISION ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-2	100 PL FD	6 STORY DWELLING UNITS
938 HOWARD ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	154 PL FD	CONSTRUCT SRO BUILDING W/ COMM
424 BRANNAN ST	Eastern SoMa SLI	55 PL FD	ERECT MIXED USE BUILDING; REZONE HEIGHT
1000 16TH ST	Potrero/Sh. Sq M-2	PL FD	CONSTRUCT 3 BLDG RES COMPLEX
111 TOWNSEND ST	Eastern SoMa M-2	34 PL FD	ERECT 8 STORY BUILDING W/ DWELLING UNITS
725 765 HARRISON ST	Eastern SoMa SLI	510 PL FD	ERECT 572 NEW RES UNITS/COMM/PARKING
40 CLEVELAND ST	Eastern SoMa SLR	4 PL FD	4 STORY UNIT, PARKING
935 FOLSOM ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	8 PL FD	ERECT 8 STORY RES UNITS/RTL/REST/PARKING
345 6TH ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	33 PL FD	ERECT 5 STORY RES/RTL/PARKING
205 SHIPLEY ST	Eastern SoMa RSD	51 PL FD	ERECT 4 STORY RES/COMM/PARKING



Park Terrace. Photo by Erin Reagan.



Vincenc Cabala from Czech Republic, works for Local Union 261. Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski.

Steadily-Increasing Growth in the Central Valley Continues to Push-Out Farmers

By Kerry Fleisher

Agricultural commissioners and city planners from eight Central Valley counties are embarking on the first-ever San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, a policy vision that's intended to identify ways to preserve California's most fertile farmland from the encroachment of residential subdivisions, strip malls, and hobby ranches. New development is paving over agricultural lands at an increasingly rapid rate. Behind the city planning jargon of "development efficiency benchmarks" and "curbing urban sprawl," are the Fresno and Tulare county farmers that face the hard reality of urban sprawl first hand: land prices are escalating, and their city-bred neighbors are none too pleased with their farming practices.

Bryan Blaine, owner of Blaine Farming in Visalia and Chairman of the Land-Use Committee in Tulare, is prohibited from spraying pesticides at the periphery of his walnut grove, in light of new regulations that restrict pesticide use near residential subdivisions. "We have a couple of orchards that we've had to abandon on the edge," he said. "In many cases we have areas that we can't treat for insects because they are within the illegal 'buffer zone' between farms and homes. The insects just spread

and cause all sorts of problems on my orchard."

Many fourth- and fifth-generation Central Valley farmers are running-up against new land-use restrictions, in addition to complaints made by formerly urban residents who are unfamiliar – and less adaptive – to farming practices. The most common grievances range from complaints about wind machine noise, pesticide fumes, tractors operating at night, land flooding, and unpleasant animal odor.

"Fresno has grown very rapidly... there are more potentials for conflicts," said Ryan Jacobsen, Fresno County Farm Bureau's Executive Director, referring to the county's roughly 20 small towns and hamlets that are steadily becoming grazing ground for developers. "There is a responsibility for both sides to be good neighbors."

Urban growth in Fresno and Tulare counties is symptomatic of Central Valley's steady loss of prime farmland. Almost one-third of the 538,273 acres of land urbanized in California between 1990 and 2004 was located in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys. In San Joaquin County, a bit less than two-thirds of land converted to urban use was high quality farmland, with one-third of Sacramento Valley's paved over land

formerly prime acreage.

Farmers, faced with the encroachment of residential settlements, have been put on the defensive. A few years ago, a noise complaint was filed against a small pistachio farm for blasting a propane cannon – a device used to ward-off birds from picking at crops – during evening hours, according to Tulare Agricultural Commissioner Gary Kunkel. The complaint resulted in an ordinance regulating the use of the cannons after-hours, which many farmers feel puts their farms at higher-risk for bird predation.

The majority of land use conflicts in California's traditional farming counties are typically settled before they reach the litigious stage, according to Fresno Agricultural Commissioner Jerry Prieto. "Usually it's the farmer that acquiesces," noted Prieto. "It's not worth the legal hassle for most farmers."

Farmers are well-versed in the counties' Right-to-Farm ordinance, a statute which protects growers' right to operate during irregular business hours and use agricultural chemicals if these behaviors conform to necessary cultivation practices. The ordinance was created to help resolve agricultural-related conflicts and to limit the loss of agricultural land.

However, new residents moving into subdivisions are becoming more vocal about their opposition to traditional farming practices. "Most of the complaints come from the ranchette type," said Prieto. Ranchettes, also known as hobby ranches, are residential subdivisions composed of .5 to 20 acre lots, with an average ranchette sprawling across 5.4 acres. There are 30,000 ranchettes in the eight county San Joaquin region. They house less than three percent of the population but use 35 percent as much land as is devoted to all urban uses in the entire Valley. Agricultural land conservationists are concerned about the continuing production of ranchettes, since the high-demand for rural land is fueling land inflation that pushes farmers off fertile fields.

While a few years ago an acre in the Central Valley sold for around \$8,000, some residential builders are now paying \$20,000 an acre for rural land. Ed Thompson, California Director of American Farmland Trust, a nonprofit research group, suggests that policy makers should encourage greater subdivision densities, especially near prime farmland. "There may be places to chop them up even further than 10

continued on page 20

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Nannies in the ‘Hood

By Emily Wilson

After her three-year old son’s nanny unexpectedly quit, lawyer Andy Greenberg went to Parents Place in the Western Addition to post an ad looking for a caretaker who could drive and speak good English. She then took Max to a Noe Valley playground and saw exactly the person she wanted. Guatemalan native Gilda Guerrero doesn’t drive, and is more comfortable in Spanish than English. But the way she interacted with the two children she was watching convinced Greenberg that she was the perfect person for Max. Greenberg introduced herself to Guerrero, who was only temporarily babysitting and looking for permanent work.

“I had totally given up when I found her,” Greenberg said. “You could just tell light was coming from inside her. I believe she was meant to be in my life.”

Guerrero also feels strongly about the meeting. “She fell out of heaven,” she said in Spanish. “I was going through a hard time in my life. It was like I was in a desert and she was like fresh water.”

For the next four years Guerrero took care of Max. “She’s such a good soul,” Greenberg said. “Children listen to her effortlessly and there’s a lot of mutual respect. They relate to her and like her.” But after Max started kindergarten Greenberg’s need for a nanny declined. Greenberg recommended Guerrero to two people in her book club, Debbie Findling, a Potrero Hill resident, and Judy Tick, who lives in Glen Park. Findling, Deputy Director at the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, and her husband, *View* publisher Steven Moss, had a new daughter, Sara, and were looking for a nanny to help out once Findling’s maternity leave ended.

Guerrero started caring for Sara, as well as Tick’s son Eli, when they both were less than four months old. “We called her ‘paid mommy,’” Moss said. “When you first have a kid you don’t know what you’re doing. Gilda just exudes a kind of quiet confidence in a very loving way. She taught us how to be good parents.”

“I love Gilda so much,” Findling said. “She has a magical power with children: she has such a causal and comfortable naturalness around them.” Findling was careful never to pay Guerrero in front of Sara; she didn’t want her daughter to think that her relationship with her nanny was solely financial. And according to Guerrero it wasn’t. “Gilda always joked that she took care of Sara for free; we paid her to push the stroller up and down Potrero’s steep hills,” said Findling.

Findling and her family’s bond with Guerrero was so tight that

they were reluctant to let her go. “She taught me how to be a better mother,” Findling said. “Some parents are jealous of their nanny, who may spend more time with their child during the week than they do. I always felt blessed that Sara had another person in her life that loved her so much.” But, as with Max, when Sara started kindergarten she no longer needed a nanny. Guerrero now works for a Noe Valley family, and Greenberg jokingly calls her a “hot commodity.”

Even though they no longer regularly see her, Guerrero remains an active presence in their lives, said Findling and Greenberg. Guerrero frequently baby sits Sara, who looks forward to her visits – “she’s a great snuggler,” she said – and Findling asks her to come an hour before she’s needed “so we can catch-up.” Guerrero recently attended the *bar mitzvah* of Greenberg’s older son, Jake. At New Year’s she makes homemade tamales, a Guatemalan tradition, and delivers them to the families she’s worked with.

Guerrero raised her now adult children, Armando, Krisheidy, and Danny, on Potrero Hill, where they attended Buena Vista Elementary School and Potrero Hill Middle School, which has since become International High School. She’s now a grandma, a role at which she excels. In addition to playing with little ones, Guerrero likes to read, sing, and eat ice cream. After caring for her own and other peoples’ children for almost three decades she still loves her work. “The best part is when they are happy, that’s the best part,” she said. “They make me happy. I am very thankful to the parents for letting me love their children.”

Do you love your nanny, gardener, or housecleaner? Tell us about them editor@potreroview.net.



In a 2003 photo, Gilda Guerrero with, from left to right, Sara, Max’s brother Jake, Eli, Max, and Eli’s brother Jake. Photo by Steve Ganz.

New Kids on the Block and other Family News

By Stacey Bartlett

Happy second birthday to Rosa, from Mummy, Daddy, Yuba, Cheech and Nash.

HB – HB! Happy first birthday to Henry Bartlett. We love you Mister Boy, from Mommy, Daddy, Annabel & Black Kitty.

A warm welcome to eight-month-old Pierce, who just moved to the Hill from North Beach with his parents Ken and Thai. Pierce busted his first tooth last month!

Five-year-old Athena Campbell mastered the delicate balance and art of bicycle riding on January 1st. Twin brother William will soon follow in her path; hopefully before their birthday at the end of the month. You can catch them biking with Mom and Dad around the ballpark and on the Embarcadero. They’ll wait a few years before tackling Potrero’s hills.

Rose Elizabeth Mandell, age eight and one-quarter, had her first real haircut on January 12th. Her hair was below her knees; now it’s shoulder-length. Rose will send her 22-inch ponytail to Locks of Love,

the people who make wigs for kids who need them. How beautiful!



Rose Elizabeth Mandell holding her 22-inch ponytail.

Southeast San Francisco Children in need of Assistance

According to the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Southeast San Francisco families have the highest need for public services in the City, with at least one out of every five children living in Bayview-

Hunters Point dependent on public assistance. Graduation rates at Potrero Hill schools are the lowest in the City. This information was compiled from a variety of sources for 2005 and 2006, the latest data

Neighborhood	Index of Need Ranking	Percent of Families in CalWorks	SFUSD Graduation Rates	Number of Nonprofits
Bayview-Hunters Point	1	21%	84%	52
Potrero Hill	2	5%	61%	131
Western Addition	3	6%	71%	142
Hayes Valley/Tenderloin	4	5%	83%	235
Inner Mission/Bernal Heights	5	10%	79%	159
Visitation Valley	6	12%	87%	42
South of Market	7	4%	83%	294
Outer Mission/Excelsior	8	8%	85%	63
Russian Hill/Nob Hill	9	2%	90%	169
Chinatown	10	1%	89%	225

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The Curbside Ethicist

Q: A wealthy friend of mine graciously offered to let my family and another couple use his luxury condominium in Mexico for free. We accepted the offer and booked our airplane tickets. A few weeks later my friend told me that he mistakenly double-booked his condo for part of the time we were supposed to be there, but offered to pay to put us up at another place nearby during the overlapping days. Understanding it was his mistake, he is gifting us the use of his condo; should we offer to pay for the extra days, or pay the necessary fees to change our flights? We're talking hundreds of dollars nobody expected to have to pony-up.

A: While it's an awkward situation, you're not obligated to pay for the additional costs caused by your friend's mistake. Your decision to go to Mexico was influenced by your friend's offer to use his property. Had you known beforehand that it wasn't possible to stay in the condo for the entire duration of your trip, you may have decided to go elsewhere. It's okay to allow your friend to do something especially nice for you. In time I'm sure you'll reciprocate his kindness.

Q: Our trash bins are stored at the bottom of our front stoop on a busy corner. People regularly stuff their own garbage or animal waste in our containers, often overflowing them. Sometimes they just place items next to the bins, which frequently aren't picked-up by Sunset Scavenger. The last two times this has happened the offenders left garbage, such as letters or empty packages, with their names on it. We followed-up in one case and called the fellow, a next door neighbor, who professed not to know how his trash got into our bins. In the other case we simply placed the garbage at the front door of another self-identified offending neighbor. What's the long-term ethical solution to this messy problem?

A: The City requires residents to keep their garbage cans out of the right of way of pedestrians and out of view. Failing to do so can result in fines of up to \$300. Best would be to reorient your bins so they can't be easily seen or accessed. Of course you, and many other San Franciscans, may find it difficult to do this because of limited space. If you can't hide the receptacles, consider locking them. Talking with your neighbors about proper trash disposal is also a good option. Dumping what you think is their trash onto their doorsteps may feel good, but isn't very neighborly.

Q: My wife was recently rear-ended by a car. Though neither vehicle was damaged she was injured slightly because her back and neck

were twisted as she was leaning forward to see the traffic behind her and to the left while attempting to turn right onto a busy street. Where this tweak may have been minor for some it was enough to cause significant discomfort for her, prompting visits to a chiropractor. Because we were borrowing somebody else's car, we didn't carry any insurance and the owner only had liability. The other driver had insurance, and since she rear-ended us she's legally responsible for the accident. However, since we weren't insured we were on our own to try and get medical compensation from the other driver's insurance company. Meanwhile we had to pay for my wife's doctor visits. Unfortunately, obtaining compensation for injuries sustained in car accidents that are not easily proved is nearly impossible, particularly in cases of soft tissue injuries, such as whiplash. Should we have gone to the chiropractor and claimed that my wife slipped and fell while walking the dog and therefore freely bill her personal insurance for the doctor visits? Should she tell the truth and hope for an unlikely future settlement from the other driver's insurance while we slowly go broke paying for the doctor visits? Who does it hurt if she lies and bills her personal insurance? We all pay tons of money for insurance that we hopefully rarely use, and the highly profitable insurance companies will do anything to find ways to avoid coming through when they're most needed.

A: Insurance is just that: an assurance that when bad things happen we'll be taken care of. If your wife was injured as a result of this accident and through no fault of her own, her medical bills should be paid by the at-fault party, in this case the other driver's insurer. Unfortunately, obtaining justice, or acting ethically, isn't always easy. Convincing the insurance company to do the right thing will take time and effort on your part. You can go through the formal complaint process with the insurance company; file a consumer complaint with the California Department of Insurance; and/or contact a personal injury attorney. Telling the chiropractor that your wife slipped and fell is wrong because it isn't true. Further, she risks additional injury if the doctor is misinformed about the underlying causes of her pain.

The Curbside Ethicist specializes in solving ethical dilemmas. Readers are encouraged to seek guidance from their own religious or philosophical counselors to solve knotty problems, and are invited to send the View their questions, comments, and disagreements about this column: editor@potrcroview.net.

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Ask a Scientist

By Paula Eve Aspin

Why is the sky blue? Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Why don't animals talk? Questions like these often pop-up in passing but what if you want answers and you want them now? Where do you find a scientist when you need one? As luck would have it, you need only go to the Axis Cafe, 1201 8th Street at 16th Street, and join an enthralled and respectful audience similarly curious and questioning. Roughly once a month the Ask a Scientist lecture series, which was created by Juliana Gallin, a locally-grown graphic designer, meets at Axis and features a speaker giving a short presentation on an intriguing topic followed by a question and answer session.

At last month's Ask a Scientist event the topic was where did language come from? On the slightly raised stage Dr. Terrence Donovan, professor of Biological Anthropology and Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley quickly presented a whole new world of information about language, accompanied by a power point presentation. It was like the best lecture you never had at university. The combination of sitting in a nice cafe, eating and drinking for

an hour with a like-minded group of people curious and eager to devour the offerings of the mentor on stage: it's quite an experience, particularly for those who have never studied the sciences.

At each Ask a Scientist event a guest expert discusses their hot off the lab table research. It's a stress-free environment in which to give your perhaps more typically unchallenged brain a bit of a workout. One hour at an Ask a Scientist session may prompt a quantum leap in a participant's personal development. Participation is easy and painless, excluding the warring, thesis-thieving, and backstabbing that may be going on in the halls of academia; which would also make a fascinating lecture for a future Ask a Scientist event.

Upcoming events include Phat Tuesday Physics Circus on February 5th, The 2,000-year-Old-Computer, on February 26, Ask a Scientist PI Day Puzzle Party, March 14, and the Science of Baseball March 17. It's free but it is advisable to arrive about an hour before the event starts to get your food and drinks, if you so choose, and grab a good seat. 'No tests, grades, or pressure...just food, drinks, socializing and conversation about the universe's most fascinating mysteries.' For more information: www.askascientistsf.com.

Max Adler, 10-years-old, has his brain examined by Dr. Terrance Donovan at last month's Ask a Scientist event held at Axis Cafe. Photo by Paula Aspin.



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U.S. Deploys New Tactic in Iraq: Anthropology

By Peter Graff
Special from Reuters

David Matsuda claims he's the last person you'd expect to see in a U.S. military uniform climbing out of an armoured vehicle in Iraq. An anthropology professor from California State University, Hayward, he's a self-described peacenik who opposed the war in Iraq, did his academic research in Guatemala and never carries a gun. "I'm a Californian. I'm a liberal. I'm a Democrat," he said. "My impetus is to come here and help end this thing."

Matsuda is a member of the U.S. military's Human Terrain Team (HTT) program, which embeds anthropologists with combat brigades in Iraq and Afghanistan in the hope of helping tactical field commanders understand local cultures. The program is controversial: the American Anthropological Association denounced it in October, saying it could lead to ethics being compromised, the profession's reputation damaged, and worst of all, research subjects becoming military targets.

According to Matsuda the concerns are based on a misunderstanding of what he's signed on to do. "There's been a knee-jerk reaction in the anthropology community, that you've been co-opted, that you're

a warmonger, like you're clubbing baby seals or something," he said. "I came here to save lives, to make friends out of enemies."

Soldiers in northeastern Baghdad - an area transformed over the past year from one of the most violent parts of Iraq to one of the best illustrations of the security improvements of late-2007 - say they're grateful for Matsuda's expertise as they make the transition from fighting to peacemaking. "It's a huge asset," said Staff Sergeant Dustin "Boogie" Brueggemann who, as a tactical psychological operations specialist, has spent the past year trying to win hearts and minds in Adhamiya, until a few months ago one of the most violent strongholds of Sunni-Arab militants in Iraq. "The guys who were out with him were saying: 'Dr. Matsuda's so smart!' Soldiers even on the lowest level, now we see the big picture just by listening to him talk. He gave me so much information that had I known it a year ago I could have done things differently. He gave me a history of the Ubaidi tribe. A lot of people here are members of that tribe. I knew a little bit about them, but I didn't realize just how big they were," he said.

Further-up the command chain, Lieutenant-Colonel David Oclander, deputy commander of the 5,000 strong 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd

Airborne Division, said Matsuda had given a presentation on how Iraqis resolve conflicts that proved valuable in approaching Shi'ite clerics. "The HTT has been a great help in making sure that when we dialogue with them, we dialogue with them in a way they understand and appreciate," he said.

The brigade is a classic example of last year's U.S. strategy in Iraq to deploy more troops and increase interactions with civilians. Before the troop buildup northeastern Baghdad - including about half of the capital's population - was covered by just a single battalion of roughly 800 U.S. troops who suffered some of the worst casualties in Iraq. Now the area is patrolled by the brigade's six battalions, including four combat battalions, each covering neighborhoods as diverse as Adhamiya and Sadr City, the giant Shi'ite slum of more than two million people.

In the past six months violence plummeted, as Adhamiya's Sunni tribal leaders turned against al Qaeda militants, and Moqtada al Sadr, the Shi'ite cleric whose Mehdi Army militia controls Sadr City, declared a ceasefire. In December 2006, there were 450 killings in the area, mostly by sectarian death squads trying to drive rival groups out of their neighborhoods. There were just

15 killings last month, mainly by ordinary criminals, said Oclander.

One day last month, Matsuda - wearing a U.S. military uniform but unarmed - spent two hours with soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry lingering on a Adhamiya street where a few months ago U.S. forces would have had to fight either in or out. They meandered in and out of shops, bought falafel sandwiches and ate them on a street corner while playing with local children who already seemed to know their names. Periodically they knocked on doors and asked permission to come inside homes for a chat. They never turned down an offer of tea. Most local people were friendly, although they complained about a lack of electricity and their suspicion of the Shi'ite-led government and its security forces.

Matsuda said he'd learned a lot that day; about who was moving into vacant houses and who was renting them out, how a local clinic got its medicines, how shop owners were getting funding to reopen their shops. "We have a window of opportunity here to make a difference for these people. We have to take it," he said.

For the past several months David Matsuda, a long-time Potrero Hill resident, has been contributing monthly articles to the View about his experiences in Iraq.

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Coffee Bar Serves it Up

By Paula Eve Aspin

I dreamt I'd found a new coffee bar with terrific Mr. Espresso coffee, delicious pastries made practically on site, served by a kind and attentive staff at a great location in a lofty warehouse. Then I woke up and realized my dream had come true. Coffee Bar is about to rock your world, but only if you're the type who considers the quest for good taste - both the visual and the swallowing type - more important than is humanly necessary. The people behind it, Jason Paul and Luigi Di Ruocco, like to do things right. The Mariposa Street site, previously Arc Café, was gutted down to the foundations. Rebuilt during the better part of 2007, it softly opened last month.

The bar is located in a wonderful warehouse space with fixtures and fittings shiny and new. The entrance's curious angle, which opens onto outdoor seating, maximizes light. Inside, stairs lead to a mezzanine dining and lounging area, a roomy space filled with tables, chairs and couches, equally good for solo keyboard tapping and schmoozing conclaves. A wall installation consisting of dangling light bulbs brings an intriguing brightness to the interior's darkest corners. Elsewhere, locally-sourced Ann Sacks' mini-subway style glazed white tiles cover the service area walls, with glazed tiles in varying shades of dark metallics featured on the restroom floor. The use of these tiles, downsizing a well recognized component of traditional industrial decor, brings a human scale and a humorous touch to a space originally designed for manual labor, not relaxation.

A nostalgic nod to the local neighborhood is offered in a series of photographs behind the counter. The photos, framed as arched windows, present the vision of hundreds of MUNI buses parked in their lot, a familiar Potrero scene. The photos might prompt a customer to wonder

about the future of the Bryant Street Car Barn: how long will it remain a bus depot? The rapidly changing community is filling-up with employees who work with wikis, design titanium tasseled chandeliers and source cereal bowls: the volume of companies employing such workers increases the demand for office space. Perhaps the recently issued Eastern Neighborhoods Final Draft Area Plans, reviewed in this month's View, sheds light on the Barn's future.

The Coffee Bar doesn't serve just coffee, it's ambrosia: Mr. Espresso served as it should be, velvety smooth and rich, a Bay Area premier product. The beverage menu is posted on large sheets of brown packing paper. In the morning choose from the Early Birds selection of eats. Each food product has been carefully sourced, and suppliers are credited on the menu. For instance, the uncommonly delicious donut-muffin-coffeecake called Dirt Ball, rolled in cinnamon (thus the name), comes from Jasmine Rae Bakery, which operates in the warehouse above the cafe. The croissants are delivered locally from Patisserie Philippe, the newish bakery near Showplace Square. Cafe Fanny granola, Straus yogurt, and a seasonal fruit salad rounds out the breakfast fare. Lunch consists of a daily soup, salads and a core of fresh sandwiches.

The staff - Sergio, Elliott, Scott and Mary - are friendly, engaging and interested to hear what you have to say, about whatever! What's wrong with this place? (It's sounding too good to be true). With a sommelier on site creating the drinks menu with verve and good taste in keeping with Coffee Bar's high standards, you'll have no excuse not to spend your entire day at the café, from coffee break to happy hour. One new customer, Manu, who happened by on his way to work, described the decor as, "Modern, minimal and perfect for me. I'll never have to go to Starbucks again."



Coffee Bar's interior looking out. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin.

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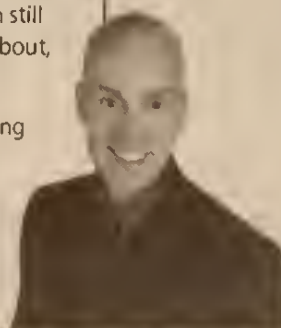
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Hill Residents Remain Concerned about Crime

By John Gallagher

A rash of robberies continues to perturb many Potrero Hill residents. Jamie Calderon, a 10-year Hill resident, had his car stolen late last year. "This is the third time this has happened to me. They stole my car from a secure garage. The car battery was dead so they went to extreme lengths to steal the car," said Calderon. "Not only do you feel violated it's the whole day dealing with the theft and all the time dealing with the insurance company."

The police found Calderon's vehicle a few days later in the Mission District, and caught the alleged criminal with a number of crack pipes in the car. But like many Hill residents, Calderon is angry at what he views as the City's generally unresponsive response to criminal activity. "The police officer told me that the police are focusing on larger crime in the City. Even though it was grand theft all he could do was shrug his shoulders. He was being straight up. This goes to the core of San Francisco. I don't blame the police. The City is so lenient on criminals, I blame the Board of Supervisors," said Calderon.

According to newly appointed Bayview Station captain John Loftus, while "robbery statistics have gone up the last several years, from 2006 to 2007 they remained fairly stable." Loftus attributes the long-term increase in robberies to changes in social behavior. "The large increase in robberies are for laptops, iPods and cell phones. These compact and valuable items are easy to sell on the street. Citizens you wouldn't associate with crime will buy these

items," said Loftus. The ubiquitous iPod has become a particularly popular target for criminals, and the telltale white wires and ear-buds can be seen blocks away.

Loftus warns residents to be on the lookout. "Make sure you don't leave property visible in cars. People need to be more careful, be conscious of your surroundings," said Loftus. "Robbery is an inherently violent crime. If you find someone is approaching to steal from you surrender your property, try to look at the suspect and call the police," said Loftus. "The people who resist are the ones that get hurt."

The Bayview Police Station is responsible for covering one of the largest areas of the City. While Loftus only recently joined the station he said he had enough officers and resources. "We've got the funding and support we need right now."

San Francisco SAFE, a nonprofit organization which "works towards preventing crime and violence and improving the quality of life in San Francisco's neighborhoods by bringing communities, police and other resources together" has a number of programs to reduce crime. According to Cindy Brandon, San Francisco SAFE's executive director, "We show how to build a network of neighbors and how to report to the police in the most effective way. When there is a perception of a trend what we tell people is to utilize our services to help organize a neighborhood watch and get a residential security service report." Brandon added that while the City does have a shortage of police officers "it's an opportunity for the community to be the eyes and ears."

Potrero Pix



Photo by Pierre Chatel.



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New Year's Eve sunset over Bernal Heights, as seen from 24th and DeHaro streets. Photo by David Jensen.



Photo by Pierre Chatel.

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BUILDING.

Fair Trade

Continued from Front Page

Fair trade products are generally more expensive than conventional goods. But there's a reason why the products sold in large supermarkets are so cheap: the farmers who grow, harvest, and package them are usually not paid a living wage, with most of the profits skimmed off by intermediaries and traders along the supply chain. "The farmers we work with are families who have been cultivating and growing products for a long time but are below the level of poverty, earning \$50 to \$400 a year for the whole family, which is often below the cost of production," Rollet said. "So fair trade is a trade relationship where we buy directly from the farmers in developing countries. We establish a price with the farmers that covers the cost of production and guarantees a decent life to the producers, the farmers, their families. We give three, five, 10 times more money than the farmer would receive in conventional trade."

In addition to providing a living wage to its suppliers, AlterEco provides cooperative farms with funds to invest in modernizing however they democratically see fit. The company's goal is to enhance farmers' living conditions by improving their means of production. "Sometimes it's a family buying a cow, sometimes it's sheep. Having milk every day can be life changing. Sometimes they buy trucks, sometimes they open daycare centers so both the father and mother can work, increasing the family revenue. It's a long process and it doesn't happen overnight," said Rollet. Oakland-based TransFair validates AlterEco's activities annually, auditing the company's investments in the cooperatives and confirming that they maintain democratic election systems.

Eighty percent of AlterEco's products are certified organic, and the company is working to increase that percentage, with many cooperatives using their investment funds to transition to organic production methods. Direct trade with small farmers has become more accessible as a result of the Internet and satellite phones. In places where technology is lacking, AlterEco provides cooperatives with marketing assistance and help obtaining government licenses. "It's trade, not aid," Rollet said. "The key to fair trade is empowerment. We want the cooperatives to manage our production center in the future." In villages where fair trade farmers are benefiting from an equitable system, the rest of the villagers want to become part of a fair trade cooperative or start their own. "There's a snowball effect," Rollet said.

One of the most surprising things about AlterEco's products is their packaging. Most products are grown, harvested, and packaged by the cooperatives or by people in the same village. "We try to keep everything in the country or community of origin," said Rollet. A few products are processed outside the area in which they're grown. For

example, to preserve freshness, coffee beans – grown in Bolivia, Peru, and Ethiopia – are roasted in South San Francisco.

AlterEco, which is available at Chiotras Grocery, Dave's Food Store, and Sundance Coffee, has been expanding its bulk product line. Rainbow Grocery, a worker-owned cooperative, carries AlterEco's jasmine rice in bulk, and in a few months the company's red quinoa from the El Ceibo cooperative in Bolivia will be available in quantity. The company also wants to increase gourmet use of its products. "We've been working with chefs because our products are special," Rollet said, noting that The Fairmont Hotel on Nob Hill uses its rice. "It's not just about buying price but about rediscovering products and taste. Big food companies just take the cash crops and the ones with the highest yields. We look to increase biodiversity."

One of the missions of the fair trade movement is to raise awareness about the farmers and cooperatives that produce the commodities Americans eat. Often this happens on a grassroots level. "We're a small company in a big country," Rollet said. "We can't be everywhere. And we can't go faster than the market." AlterEco works with the Bay Area Fair Trade Coalition and visits stores to educate customers about exotic products many may not have heard of, often handing out samples or standing in the grain aisle talking to customers. AlterEco staff especially like this part of their jobs, because when customers pick up the company's products – which always feature photos of farmers – they know by name many of the growers that produced and packaged it. "Sometimes we bring farmers here to tell their story during Fair Trade Month in October," Rollet said. "They're much better than me at telling the story. That's the mission of fair trade: to be as direct as we can be."

Though buying products from around the world is at odds with the adage "buy locally, act globally," Rollet insists that purchasing fair trade products is complimentary to buying local. "None of our products are grown in the U.S.," he said. "They grow jasmine rice in Texas, but it's because the jasmine strain was stolen from Thailand." Some environmentalists have expressed concerns about the amount of carbon emissions created by the need to transport exotic products long distances. However, according to Rollet, AlterEco is a carbon neutral business, planting as many trees as necessary to offset the carbon discharged by its activities.

Rollet has numerous success stories, especially when success is measured by improvements in farmers' quality of life. "There was a farmer in Thailand who was cultivating rice. He was always using more and more fertilizer to increase the yield. He ended up going to the hospital a couple of times. They don't have any protection, masks or anything. And they need to use more and more fertilizer every year

because the soil is losing richness. And then he joined the co-op. He was amazed how the soil on his field was living again and how much better he felt."

"Every year, the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. There are remedies for that. We'd like to be a part of changing people's perception of international trade and be a leader as a tool to fighting world poverty," Rollet said. "Fair Trade is very small, it's just starting. We hope to be part of its growth. We hope there are more consumers buying our products so we can buy from more farmers."

Both Rollet and Senard live in Potrero Hill. "We're really happy to be part of the community here," said Rollet. "Potrero Hill is really our backyard. There are a lot of not for

profits and green businesses, so it's very easy to make new friends here. We have a good store presence and we hope we get a lot of support from our neighbors."

As I get ready to leave AlterEco's Dogpatch office, Rollet begins filling a big brown bag with products. Organic ground cane sugar from the Philippines, ruby and jasmine rice from the Surin cooperative in Thailand, red quinoa from the La Ceibo cooperative, Rooibos tea from the Wupperthal cooperative in South Africa, Chai tea from a Sri Lankan cooperative, and then the chocolates, all made from cocoa grown and harvested in the La Ceibo cooperative. AlterEco's chocolate alone makes doing good in the world a quite tasty thing to accomplish.



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Independence

Continued from Front Page

Truman and his wife. Meanwhile, the S.S. Constitution earned fame when an *An Affair to Remember* and an episode of *I Love Lucy* were filmed aboard the ship. The S.S. Constitution hosted Grace Kelly's wedding party on its way to Monaco.

After purchasing the Independence in 1968 the American travel agency Fugazi painted a pink and orange sunburst with Jean Harlow eyes on its hull. That sale ushered in a period in which the ship frequently needed repairs, a chronic condition that dogged her for the rest of her active days. In 1974, the ship began sailing the seas under Atlantic Far East Lines, though within two years she underwent repairs in Hong Kong. In 1979 both the S.S. Constitution and S.S. Independence began sailing weeklong cruises between the Hawaiian Islands under the newly formed American Hawaii Cruises. In 1981 the Independence came to San Francisco for repairs after she ran aground off Kauai and all her passengers were flown home.

The Independence underwent a major revamping in 1994 – with a pervasive lei theme throughout – and continued to serve as a Hawaiian cruise ship. Her funnels still feature those flashy floral designs, resembling graffiti art from afar. The S.S. Constitution was decommissioned in 1995. Two years later, on her way to be scrapped in Asia, she sank north of the Hawaiian Islands.

In 2001 the S.S. Independence won the ship of the year award from the Steamship Historical Society only months before its parent company, American Classic Voyages, went bankrupt. The company had received \$400 million in loans from the Maritime Administration to build two American-made ships as part of Project America, an effort to revitalize construction of U.S.-flagged ships. American Classic Voyages claimed that the events of September 11th had increased cruise ship cancellations by 30 percent. The S.S. Independence stopped sailing in October, 2001 and headed to San Francisco's Pier 39.

Norwegian Cruise Lines took over the abandoned "Project America" and received permission from the Maritime Administration to be able to partially construct ships outside the United States while still maintaining their status as U.S.-flagged ships. As part of the agreement, Norwegian Cruise Lines bought the S.S. Independence, with plans to continue its tours in Hawaii. Instead, the Independence was laid up in several Bay Area ports before settling in at Pier 70.

While for the past five years the Independence's movements have been limited to the mostly gentle rocking of Bay waves, she has continued to serve as a pleasure craft of sorts for a handful of admirers. A writer, photographer, and urban explorer who goes by the name Tunnelbug has been inside every room of the S.S. Independence, even the bowels

of her smokestacks. Tunnelbug spent 10 hours photographing the ship on his first night time visit, equipped with three flashlights. He considered sleeping aboard the vessel so he could take better photos during day light hours, but decided that the risk of being discovered was too great.

The ship is dark and damp and the mold has a unique smell. Despite these dour conditions, the Independence is a product of 1950s modernism. Unlike the Titanic, her late-art deco geometry feels sterile, and features an aesthetic of barren curves. "There are 400 cabins on the ship and they all look the same," Tunnelbug said. The smokestacks smell like gunpowder and leave you covered in black grime. "There's no guardrail around the edge of smokestacks. If you fall, you're dead," he reported.

In the lounge, a chandelier hangs in a dim, greenish light. Behind it are the ocean liner's ubiquitous floral designs, with chairs haphazardly piled up to the ceiling. A one-person booth made of dried grass reads Aloha.

According to a Maui Task Force reporting on the cultural representations aboard one of Norwegian Cruise Line's Hawaiian ships, "onboard entertainment offered on the *Pride of Aloha* consisted of little that was culturally Hawaiian." The atmosphere was of "a holiday, festival, or as some thought, a Caribbean feel instead of a deep sense of Hawaii, Hawaiian values, its traditions, and multicultural

offerings." The "Hawaii" the Independence's passengers were once able to buy in two-week chunks is now a moldy, rusted monstrosity of useless material. In the ship's hospital, a bright green syringe remains stabbed through a bulletin board. The yellows, reds, greens, and blues of the floral tile clash with the Surfrider Bar's locked gates and eerie shadows. The tower that broke off when the ship was headed to Suisun Bay's Navy Mothball Fleet lies on the deck, close by two swimming pools. Filled with brackish water and half-covered with tangled nets, the pools are perhaps the clearest reminders of this paradise ship's heyday and demise.

It's hard to imagine the S.S. Independence on the oily shores of Chittatong, Bangladesh, broken, scrapped, and carried away as sheets of steel. But when the costs of fixing a ship are too high, that's usually what happens. Almost all ship breaking and scrapping occur in Bangladesh, Pakistan, or India, where safety and environmental regulations are minimal and labor is cheap. "It costs more to scrap in the U.S. than to sell in the U.S.," Maybaum said. Unless something quite unexpected happens, it's likely that in the not too distant future the S.S. Independence will be taking its last cruise.



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– Janet J.



Biotech

Continued from Front Page

anticipates that changes will have to be made to existing transit and community facilities to accommodate population increases. Under the new world envisioned by the plans existing parking requirements would be eliminated, and residents would by and large either have to find street parking or be dependent on public transportation. "Transit Service Improvement Areas" are proposed along 16th Street and in between Mission Creek and 18th Street.

At least one new park would be added to the Showplace Square area, currently proposed at 16th and Irwin streets, where Wolfe's Deli is located. Tony Kelly, the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association's president, explained that he'd like to see Channel Street turned into open space, since it's owned by the City and isn't currently being used. The 1.5 acre strip could serve as a connection to the Mission Creek open space area. Channel Street, however, is located adjacent to Golden Gate Recycling and Disposal, which would like to take over the land in exchange for a park it owns in another part of San Francisco.

The Planning Department has yet to complete the nexus study that will show the linkage between new development and needed community improvements, or to quantify how much money will be required to fund the neighborhood enhancements necessary to serve a larger population. According to Rich that analysis is almost finished, and will focus on the cost to build affordable housing, provide needed transportation and secure open space. "We are in the process of adding-up how much that all costs, and it is probably going to be over a billion dollars," he explained.

Kelly has several concerns about the *Area Plans*, and feels that they lack essential information, making them

difficult to support. "It memorializes the lack of progress. They say they have a lot more ideas, but when is the public going to get to hear about those programs? When is the public review going to happen on the real plans?" Kelly complained.

The Urban Mixed Use zone would provide for additional affordable housing, but Kelly points-out that existing affordable housing along Mission and Valencia streets wouldn't be preserved under *Area Plans* and will likely be converted to market rate housing. "It is guaranteed displacement on a massive scale" he stated, adding that there is "more pressure on Showplace Square to solve everybody's problems: the housing, the jobs and everything else."

The area plan seeks to increase the "knowledge sector" – newly-minted planning jargon for financial services, information technology and life sciences, otherwise known as biotech businesses – in "appropriate portions of Showplace Square and Central Waterfront." Biotech-related establishments would be permitted along 7th Street, close to Mission Bay, as long as they're buffered from Potrero Hill's existing residential areas.

While the area plan describes the addition of knowledge sector industries to the neighborhood, the zoning maps don't reflect it. A biotech overlay district has apparently been set aside on the large blocks along 7th Street, where mixed-use and production, distribution and repair uses are supposed to be located, but the district isn't shown on the zoning maps that have been released. "They somehow managed to sneak in biotech into the plans, but in seven years of community planning I have not heard one resident speak in favor of biotech in Showplace Square," Kelly said. "Everything we like about this mixed-use neighborhood goes away if they are turning it over to biotech offices. Planning knows

this, but they chose to ignore it."

Rich countered that there are certain industries that the City would like to attract, including information- and life sciences-related offices and laboratories. Rich acknowledged that existing residents don't like the idea, and that the Department is trying to balance the City's and community's interests. District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell reportedly supports biotech in the area, but wasn't

available for comment.

While the Planning Department tries to wrap-up its work, the Plan Potrero Effort, headed-up by the Booster's and Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses, will resume its community-based planning process in the coming weeks. The group hopes to produce its own map, area plan and public benefits analysis by the end of February, according to Kelly.

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February 5th Primary Election Endorsements

San Francisco Propositions

- A - Yes** Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bonds, 2008
B - Yes Deferred Retirement Option for SF Police Officers
C - No Policy to Acquire Alcatraz for Global Peace Center

California Propositions

- 91 - No** Transportation Funding
92 - no position Community Colleges Funding/Admin/Fees
93 - Yes Legislators' Term Limits
94-97 - No Ratification of Indian Gaming Contracts

Democratic Presidential Primary

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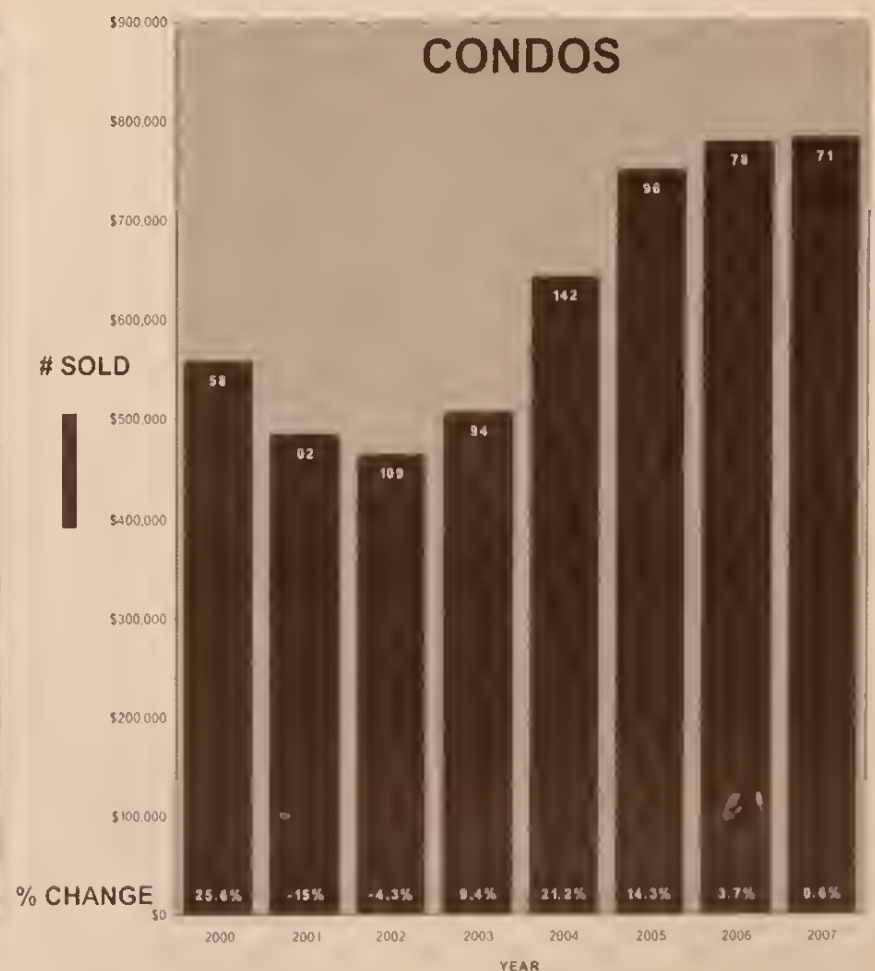
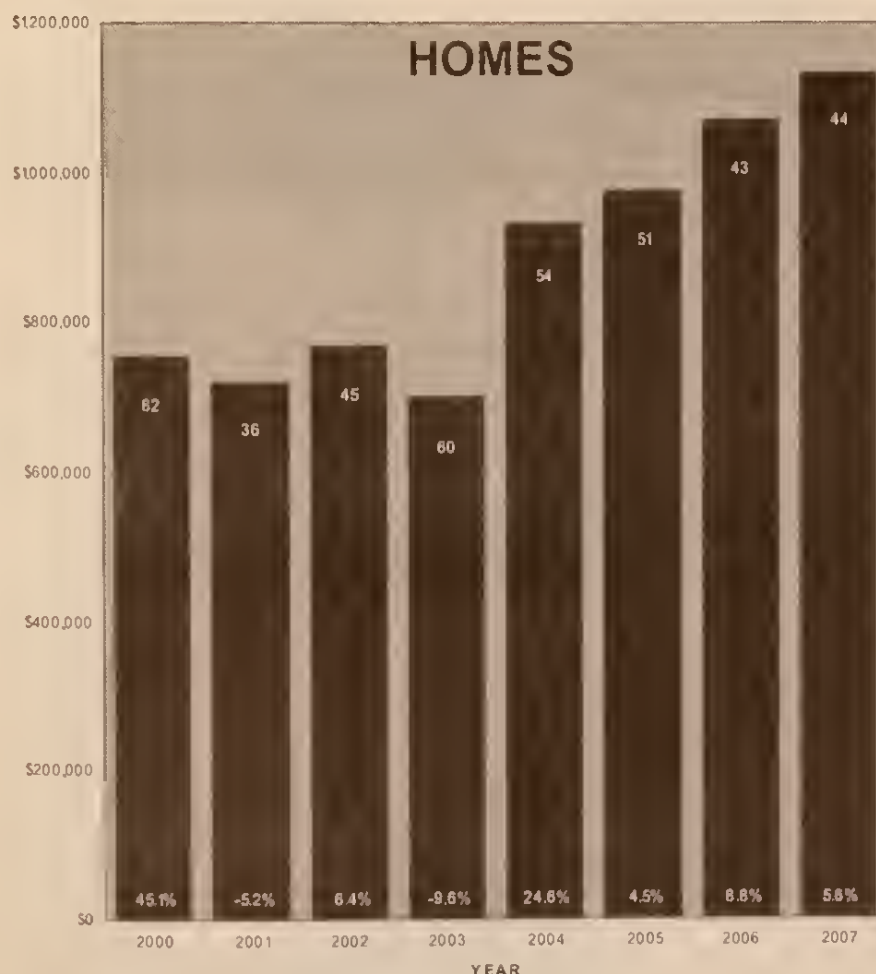
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Farmers

Continued from Page 8

acre lots," said Thompson. "Building these ranchettes, it's like having a citrus freeze every year in terms of farmland lost."

Central Valley real estate developers are increasingly being scrutinized for questionable land use practices that take advantage of rural tax-breaks. The Williamson Act, which was enacted in 1965, is supposed to preserve agricultural lands and open space through property tax incentives and voluntary restrictive-use contracts. Today, many residential builders are using loopholes in the law to build ranchettes on 10 to 40 acre lots and still qualify for lower property taxes under the act.

The penalties for such misconduct are high, but local governments don't have the necessary infrastructure to effectively prosecute offenders, say county officials. Last summer the Tulare County town of Visalia took a different approach to the ranchette debacle: they passed a law requiring increased housing density on residential subdivisions. The law raises the minimum number of homes per acre to five, up from three and a half.

Thompson believes that this type of infill development is a good first step to preserving prime farmland, but that more extensive land use policies are necessary to curb urban sprawl long-term. He suggests that Tulare County consider impact fees, a credit system that encourages development in already urban areas, and stricter evaluations for requests to rezone agricultural land to commercial or residential.

According to the American Farmland Trust, sprawling development in Fresno and Tulare County—the two leading agricultural counties in the United States—is consuming too much farmland per resident. Tulare County has urbanized 884 acres on average per

year since 1990, consuming an acre of farmland for every 5.7 residents, 1.4 times faster than the Valley as a whole. Fresno's population is expected to double by 2040, with a projected 97,605 acres of agricultural land expected to be urbanized by 2050. Between 2002 and 2004, Fresno County lost 11 agricultural acres a day.

Through the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint process, Fresno and Tulare counties are trying to figure out how best to incorporate more than 60 small towns and hamlets into a centralized municipal system that promotes smart growth. "The tipping point was when we realized a number of small cities were growing together. That was a wake-up call," said Fresno Deputy Director of Planning Lynne Gorman. Fresno agricultural conservationists are enthusiastic about Fresno's Farmland Conservation Model Program, a pilot initiative to determine the best practices for preserving Valley farmland. Fresno is also considering a Metro Rural Loop to concentrate transportation in Fresno and adjacent Madera counties, and a task force has been created to examine potential agricultural buffers between Fresno cities. "Without it, there will be scattered growth and tax revenue conflicts amongst cities," said Gorman.

Tulare County is looking to American Farmland Trust to help develop a smart growth plan. Thompson claims that the county earmarked too much land for urban development in their 2006 General Plan Update. County officials predict urban land will double by 2025, but critics say Tulare should adopt development limits and higher density requirements to limit urban sprawl.

"It's hard to stop these land-use complaints as developments occur throughout the region," said Prieto. "And it's the farmers' livelihoods that are at stake."

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Eastern Neighborhoods Public Benefits Trust Fund (ENPBTF)



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953 De Haro Street at Southern Heights

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If you or your organization is looking for funding for projects in the area, come and learn about the Eastern Neighborhoods Public Benefit Trust Fund grant opportunities. Grants will be made to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations or groups that have a fiduciary agreement with a 501(c)3.

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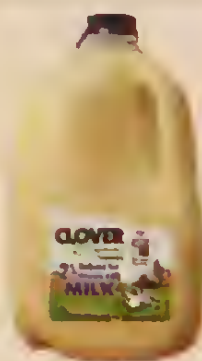
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Police Blotter

Tuesday, January 8, 1:14 p.m., 800 Block of Arkansas Street: Bayview plain clothes officers, in conjunction with the Palo Alto police and the State Parole Board, conducted a parolee search on the 800 block of Arkansas Street. They located multiple types of narcotics and packaging for sales, as well as a rifle, a shotgun, and numerous rounds of ammunition. A parolee was arrested, and booked on narcotics and weapons charges.

Tuesday, January 8, 8:42 p.m., 24th and Illinois streets: Bayview officers met a man who, after an evening of cocktails in the Mission District, was robbed at gun point. After leaving a bar at the corner of 16th and Mission streets he noticed a car circling the block a few times. The car pulled over and the victim asked for a ride home. The victim got into the car, but told the police that he was too intoxicated to remember any particular details. He said the car's female occupant pointed a gun at him and demanded \$20. The man got out of the car at 24th and Illinois streets, and walked to 3rd Street to make a phone call. The man said that he left his shoe in the car, and suffered no further loss.

Wednesday, January 9, 9:49 p.m., Missouri and 18th streets: Sargent McCray was on patrol in Potrero Hill when she saw a man running down 18th Street with a blue Dodge charger driving in reverse after him. McCray heard two gunshots and saw

the man duck for cover and then run into a nearby restaurant for refuge. The Dodge turned around and fled towards the freeway. McCray gave chase but lost the car at the 101/280 interchange. Officers converged on the scene and met with the man, who was unhurt during the encounter. The victim told officers that he was outside when the Charger pulled up and the suspect asked him directions to a store. The suspect produced a gun and the victim fled on foot. The victim heard shots as he ran and assumed the suspect was shooting at him. Although the victim didn't know the identity of his attackers, he indicated that the Charger was parked outside of his residence earlier that evening.



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GETTING INVOLVED



Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **February 12**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: **February 26**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **February 12**, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **February 5**, 6 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next Meeting: **February 5**.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. **Volunteer for Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 810.4900. Next meeting: **March 18**. Next Volunteer Day: **February 16**.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.



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The Custom Made Theatre Company presents a gender-bending production of Tony Kushner's follow-up to *Angels in America*. Kushner transports us to Russia circa 1985 at the beginning of Perestroika, and takes us through the fall of the Soviet empire in 1991. Along the way, we encounter leaping Bolsheviks, drunken lesbians, wandering children, and even a Babushka or two. 8 p.m., Tickets: \$25. The Custom Stage, 965 Mission Street. Information: www.custommade.org.

February 1

Lottery Party: *Fringe Festival Lottery Party*

Performers for the 2008 San Francisco Fringe Festival will be chosen in a drawing that's free and open to the public. The party features performances by The Whistleaires and magician Christian Cagigal, as well as a short excerpt from the upcoming *Her Majesty*, by Sean Owens. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy Street. Information: 931.1094. www.exit.org.

February 2

Urban Composting: *Garden for the Environment*

Winter is a great time to (re)start composting. Join Garden for the Environment for a fun, hands-on workshop teaching the basics of backyard and worm composting. Compost is a rich soil amendment that will greatly benefit your garden plants, houseplants, and the environment, the later by diverting compostable material from landfill. Learn how to turn those food scraps or fallen leaves into "gardeners' black gold." Free, 10 a.m. to noon, Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue at Lawton Street. Information: 731.5627; info@gardenfortheenvironment.org.

Lecture: *Art & Emotions*

How do artists affect our emotions? How do our emotional reactions inform art? Experience your own shifts in judgment through demonstrations of music, drama, and visual images and learn about the latest interactive digital technology that responds to emotional changes. Prize-winning documentary war photographer Smith Patrick will be joined by one of the Bay Area's top film composers as well as experts from the computer gaming industry. 2 p.m., McBean Theater, The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; www.exploratorium.org.

February 5

Potluck Dinner: *Potrero Hill Democrats*

In true democratic form, the Potrero Hill Democratic Club will host a potluck dinner and watch the California Primary returns on Super Tuesday. 7 p.m., The Nabe, 953 DeHaro Street. Information: Kate Hilsenbeck 781.7900.

February 6

Theater: *May Day Parade: Bugles, Blasphemy, and the Baptist Church*

May Day Parade follows Harris on a "road less traveled" or at least "less marched" as he encounters an alcoholic deacon in a Baptist Church basement, a zen-like marching instructor who flew helicopters in Viet Nam and a dozen 'letter' girls bumping and grinding down a St. Louis boulevard to the marching band version of a James Brown hit. Tickets: \$8 to \$12. 7:30 p.m., The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street. Information: 800.838.3006 www.themarsh.org.

February 7-9

Multi-media Art: *Bodily File and Clean** photos at the website*

Brittany Brown Ceres and Maya Gurantz display their newest counter-culture, multi-media art at CounterPULSE. In *Bodily File*, choreographer Brittany Brown Ceres collaborates with play activist Jenny Ward to explore undefined emotions and experiences stored in our bodies. In Gurantz's *Clean*, she deconstructs Silicon Valley's self-perception through an investigation of its numerous toxic Superfund sites. *Clean* recreates typically inaccessible locations, from manufacturing facilities, to parcels literally too toxic for humans to walk on, to the bodies of workers revolting against exposure to multiple chemicals in their homes. Tickets: \$12 to \$20. 8 p.m., CounterPULSE, 1310 Mission Street. Information: www.counterpulse.org.

February 8-16

Theater: *Her Majesty*

San Francisco solo show veterans Sean Owens and Christina Augello preview Owens' latest show at EXIT Stage Left prior to its run at the FRIGID New York festival. *Her Majesty* is a breakneck farce-for-two where queens of every kind collide, and quick changes and theatrical follies soon give way to the folly of theatre. Tickets: \$12 to \$20. 8 p.m., Exit Theater, 156 Eddy Street. Information: 931.1094; www.theexit.org.

February 8- March 2

Theater: *Sonny's Blues*

Sonny's Blues is a story of brotherhood from one of America's great storytellers. James Baldwin. Directed by Margo Hall and with original musical score by Marcus Shelby, *Sonny's Blues* depicts two brothers in Harlem during the 1950's as they navigate a tense and complicated relationship against the jazzy rhythmic background of city life. Music is present in every moment of *Sonny's Blues*: in the neighborhood bars, the deserted schoolyards, and through the gospel singers. Tickets: \$22 to \$36. 8 p.m., Lorraine Hansberry Theater, 620 Sutter Street. Information: 474.8800; www.zspace.org.

February 9

Workshop: *Basic Fruit Tree Care*
Garden for the Environment and Orchard Keepers team-up for this

workshop on fruit trees. Practicing proper fruit tree care will insure you reap the fruits of your labor! This three hour session will include basic management practices such as site selection, soil preparation, pest and disease management, pruning and the masterful art of planting a bare root tree. \$15, pre-registration required. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue at Lawton Street. Information: 731.5627; info@gardenfortheenvironment.org.

February 14

Cinema: *Romeo & Juliet*

Celebrate the most romantic day of the year with the greatest love story ever told. Marc Huestis presents the 40th Anniversary Archive Print Screening of the great screen classic Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo & Juliet*, with Olivia Hussey, "Juliet" herself, live in-person at the majestic Castro Theatre. Hussey will reveal the behind the scenes' story of the film's making, with her career highlights shown in a special clip reel compiled for this gala event. Tickets: \$25. 7 p.m., Castro Theater, 429 Castro Street. Information: 863.0611; www.ticketweb.com.

February 15-April 27

Exhibit: *The Fabric of Cultures: Fashion, Identity, Globalization*

The Museum of Craft and Folk Art presents more than 30 garments and numerous textiles representing a variety of global traditions and aesthetics from past to present. The *Fabric of Cultures: Fashion, Identity, Globalization* exhibit is curated by Amy Winter, Director and Curator of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum. The pieces come from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, the Queens College Costume Collection, designers, and private holdings. Admission: \$5. 51 Yerba Buena Lane. Information: 227.4888; www.mocfa.org.

February 17

Opera: *A Musical Valentine*

Celebrated soprano Hope Briggs returns to the Bay Area for an intimate and uplifting musical afternoon following rave reviews for starring roles in opera houses and recital halls throughout the United States and Europe. Briggs

shares favorite opera arias, and will be joined by Holly Stell, a 15-year-old Bay Area singing sensation, as well as well-known local virtuoso violinist Dawn Harms. Tickets: \$25 to \$50. 3 p.m., Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Information: 392.4400; www.cityboxoffice.com.

February 21

Antique Roadshow: *Farley's*

Ever wondered what that antique in your attic is, or what it might be worth? Here's your chance to find out: bring your treasure to Farley's for information and advice from professional antique collectors. 7 p.m., Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; www.farleyscoffee.com.

February 23

Lecture: *21st Century Brain: How Neuroscience is changing the Way We Shop, Vote, and Pay Taxes*

What induces us to choose a particular beauty product, or one presidential candidate over another? How free is our "free will" in the 21st century? Join a panel of leading neuroscientists and philosophers to explore how retail companies, economic think-tanks, political campaign organizers, and others use neuroscience to change the way we think and feel. 2 p.m., McBean Theater, The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; www.exploratorium.org.

February 29

Concert: *Sanctuary: A Cathedral concert*

Sanctuary's performance features meditative and ecstatic songs from Eastern European spiritual traditions woven together with folk songs whose haunting melodies and rich harmonies soar in resonant space. Several songs showcase thrilling solos by Bulgarian folk song diva Tzvetanka Varimezova. The music expresses a dynamic range of emotion that flows seamlessly from ethereal, contemplative pieces to tunes that rouse with their earthy rhythms. 8 p.m., Old First Concerts, 1751 Sacramento Street. Information: www.kitka.org.

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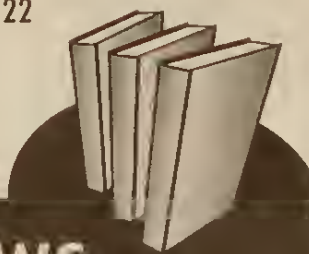


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**LIBRARY NEWS**

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

Potrero Branch Doors Will be Open through Spring

We're awaiting news of changes to the architectural plan and a projected closure date. While we wait, the library will remain open. We expect that we'll be closing sometime this spring.

On the Same Page January/February Pick: *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. Check out the New Year pick, located above "New Books," as described by *Publisher's Weekly*: "See's engrossing novel set in remote 19th-century China details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends (laotong, or "old sames") Lily and Snow Flower, their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women and their betrayal by pride and love."

February Children's Programs

In celebration of Chinese New Year, the Chung Ngai Dance Troupe will perform traditional Chinese dances and Chinese yo-yo, Saturday, February 2 at 2:30 p.m. In celebration of Black History Month, we're thrilled to have the rhythmic body dance of Derique, Saturday, February 9 at 4 p.m.

Storytime for Children is Thursday, February 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. For children age birth to five.

Films for children aged two to seven will resume on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning February 5 at 7 p.m. *Leo the Late Bloomer*, *Little Blue*, *Little Yellow* and *The Little Engine That Could* will be featured.

Want To Help Raise Money For Potrero Branch? Donate Your Art

The Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee, in collaboration with community members, are organizing an art auction to raise funds for things that public bond money cannot cover in the renovated or newly constructed Potrero Branch Library. If you'd like to contribute your art please contact Tina Tom at the Friends of the Library at 626.7512, extension 106. The Neighborhood Capital Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. The next meeting will be January 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Potrero Branch meeting room.



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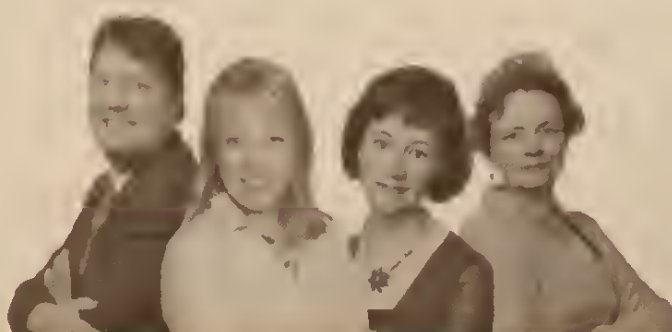
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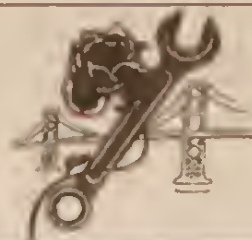
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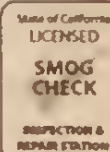
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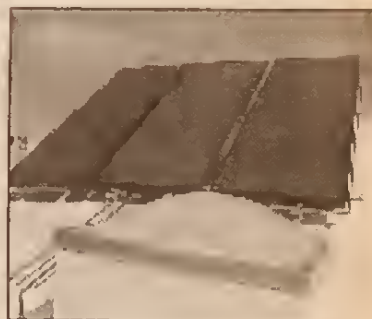


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Effective March 1, \$25 will be charged for up to 200 characters, including spaces. A 20 percent discount will be provided for ads paid for six months in advance. Payment, and/or corrections, must be received by the 18th of each month for the ad to appear in the following month's issue. View Want Ads, 2325 Third Street, Suite 344, San Francisco, California 94107; 415.626.8723; office@potreroview.net.

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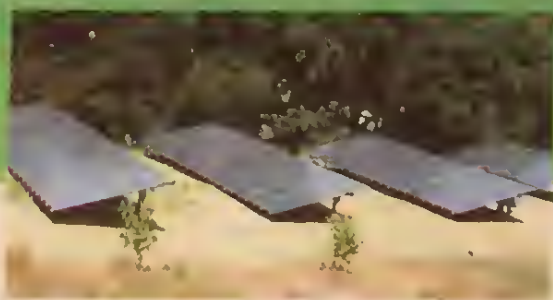
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